



28 die in pitched battles as black faction fighting rages in Natal

Negotiations to start soon says Mandela

From Gavin Bell in Cape Town, Ray Kennedy in Johannesburg, Nicholas Beeson in Soweto, and Richard Ford in London

Mr Nelson Mandela last night drove to a secret location after expressing confidence that negotiations with the De Klerk Government for a non-racial society would begin soon.

But as the newly-released African National Congress leader described his hopes for a peaceful, democratic society, battles raged between rival black factions in Natal, killing at least 28 people.

And in Soweto, about a hundred people fainted in the crush at the Orlando Stadium where 50,000 had gathered to see Mr Mandela, only to be disappointed as his homecoming was postponed again.

Mr Mandela had flown by private jet from Cape Town — where he held a press conference at the home of Archbishop Desmond Tutu — to Johannesburg, and is believed to have spent the night at the suburban home of Mr Richard Maponya, a wealthy black businessman.

Last night only a couple of hundred supporters remained outside the Mandelas' home, keeping up the singing and dancing that had continued non-stop for 48 hours.

Mr Mandela had told the press conference that he expected the remaining obstacles to negotiations would be removed very soon, and that the ANC would seize the earliest opportunity for a political settlement.

There was no contradiction between the continuation of the armed struggle and a commitment to peace. "The armed struggle is merely a

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defensive act against the violence of apartheid. If the government gives us the opportunity, we are ready to make a positive contribution towards a peaceful settlement.

"Mr de Klerk is a man of integrity, and he seems to be fully aware of the danger of making undertakings which he fails to honour."

His own part in the peace process would be determined by the ANC leadership in Zambia, and he would go to Lusaka to discuss that at the earliest opportunity.

On white fears of domination by the black majority, he said: "Whites are fellow South Africans, and we want them to feel safe and that we appreciate the contribution they have made towards the development of our country."

He also hoped for reconciliation with rival black political organizations and to win the support of leaders of the tribal homelands accorded notional independence by Pretoria.

More than 3,000 people have been killed in the past three-and-a-half years of warfare between the Inkatha movement of Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi and the ANC, and as Mr Mandela spoke, the violence flared more viciously than ever.

One woman said the province had turned into a blood-bath, with people being shot, stabbed, hacked and sliced to death with machetes. The worst hit area was Mpumalanga, where at least 10 people were killed.

In several other parts of the

country, the celebrations of Mr Mandela's release turned ugly. In Johannesburg a white security guard opened fire on a group of black revellers, killing one and wounding four.

A limpet mine explosion at Newlands, Cape Town, badly damaged a ticket office at the cricket ground where Mike Goringham's team is due to begin a "test" match against South Africa on Thursday, and similar explosions were also reported in Paarl, Parow and Soweto. No-one was hurt.

Meanwhile, the neo-fascist Afrikaner Resistance Movement predicted increased violence. Mr Eugene Terre Blanche, its leader, said it planned to hold up to five protest marches a week.

The fears of such a white backlash were cited in the Commons as Mr William Waldegrave, the Foreign Office minister, defended the Government's determination to ease sanctions.

The Prime Minister is willing to act unilaterally to remove a number of voluntary sanctions, and Mr Waldegrave told MPs that if nothing were done to support those wishing to negotiate, Britain would be blamed "when the white backlash sweeps De Klerk away".

With Labour accusing the Prime Minister of being isolated at the United Nations and in the Commonwealth, sources made clear that she did not "give two hoots" about being in a minority of one as long as she was right.

Mrs Thatcher would go ahead with her invitation to Mr Mandela, who said yesterday that he would seek ANC advice before replying.

Mr Mandela had earlier

Continued on page 20, col 7



In peace: Mr Nelson Mandela with his wife Winnie and Archbishop Tutu enjoying an early morning stroll around the archbishop's garden in Cape Town.

Quiet charm in a flower garden

From Gavin Bell, Cape Town

Mr Nelson Mandela emerges from a lifetime of persecution as a courteous, articulate and modest man with no trace of rancour.

In contrast with the pandemonium of his release, the veteran revolutionary appeared before the world's press yesterday in a more leisurely manner, in the gracious surroundings of Archbishop Desmond Tutu's official residence on the slopes of Table Mountain in suburban Cape Town.

The historic mansion and extensive grounds provided a magnificent setting. For the benefit of photographers, Mr Mandela and Winnie, his wife, strolled hand in hand through the flower garden, for all the world like shy newly-weds. In front of them Archbishop Tutu gambolled — there is really no other way of describ-

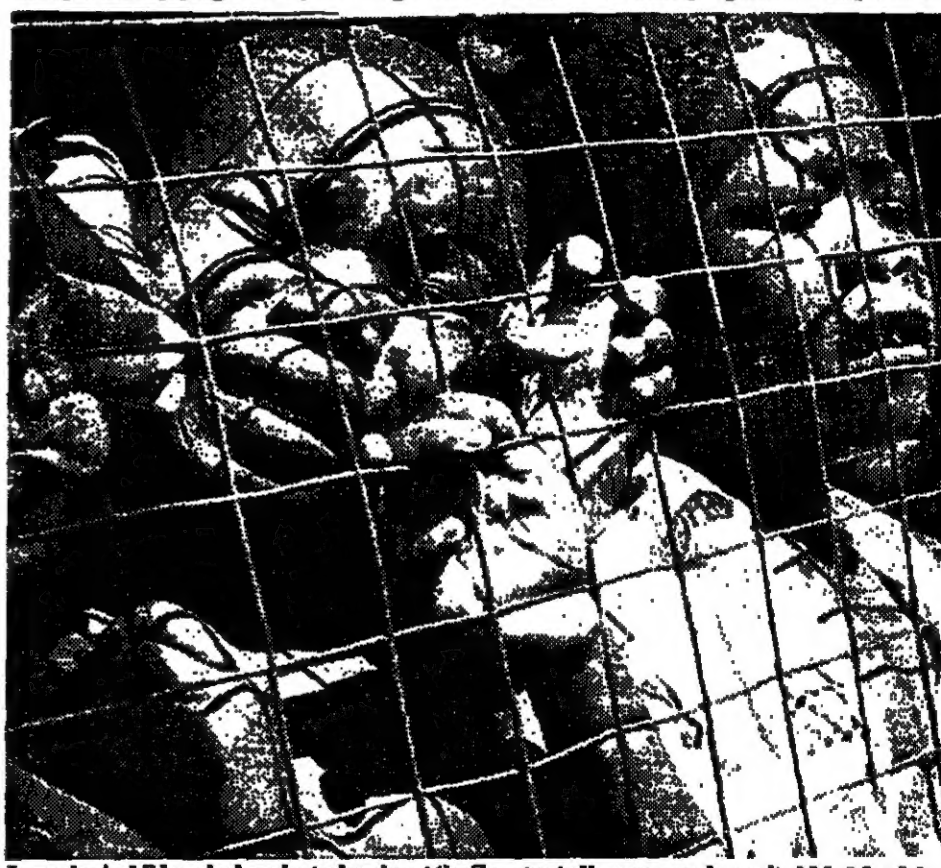
ing his ebullient behaviour — as the happiness of the reunited couple was recorded for posterity.

Family portraits were composed with their daughter, Zindzi, and their grandchildren. Then there were poses with political comrades, arms upraised in clenched-fist salutes, as African National Congress supporters on the lawn chanted Mr Mandela's name in a soft refrain.

Finally, in response to a request from Chris Harris, the photographer from *The Times*, Mr Mandela stood alone, a gaunt but erect figure in a light brown suit, squinting in the strong sunlight, at once a distinguished elderly gentleman and the symbol of resistance to racial oppression.

Journalists are not given to applauding speakers at press

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In panic: A child pushed against a barrier at the Soweto stadium as crowds awaited Mr Mandela.

INSIDE

Lawson speaks



● "We've been treated to a dose of the sort of sanctimonious humbug which is characteristic of sections of the British Press. It is the politics of envy and an awful lot of humbug." On page 10 Nigel Lawson talks to Barbara Amiel about money, Mrs Thatcher, his past, and his future

Portfolio PLATINUM

● Three readers shared yesterday's £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize (see page 3). Today's game: page 24

Sketchley bid

Sketchley, the dry cleaning to vending machines group, is attempting to fight off a £137.6 million takeover bid from Godfrey Davis, the Sunlight laundry services to motor leasing group. Page 21

Boxing turmoil

The boxing world was in turmoil after the decision to declare the heavyweight title bout between Mike Tyson and James Douglas void. Page 42

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Guinness trial jury gets ready for long hearing

By Paul Wilkinson

The Guinness trial finally got under way yesterday at Southwark Crown Court, south London, with the swearing-in of the jury for a hearing that is expected to last up to six months. The jury was given the rest of the day off to settle domestic arrangements.

Today details of the Crown's case against the brewing group's former chairman and chief executive, Mr Ernest Saunders, and his three co-accused will be outlined by Mr John Chadwick QC.

The case arises out of an alleged illegal share support operation launched by Guinness in the closing stages of its takeover of the drinks group Distillers in 1986. The charges came after a DTI investigation into the takeover battle when Guinness beat a rival bid from the Argyll group.

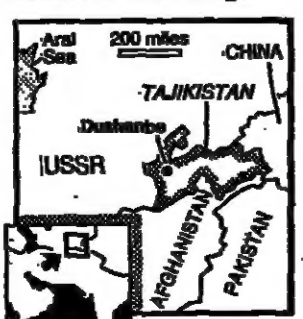
Mr Saunders, Mr Gerald Ronson, chairman of Britain's second largest privately-owned group, the Heron Corporation; Mr Anthony Parnes, a City stockbroker; and Sir Jack Lyons, a millionaire financier and arts patron, deny 24 charges alleging theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act.

The charges, page 2



Emergency in Soviet republic

Moscow (AFP) — The Soviet central Asian republic of Tajikistan declared a state of emergency yesterday because of mass disorders, accompanied by arson and looting in the capital Dushanbe. A 10pm to 6am curfew was imposed. Tass reported "demonstrations... pogroms, fires and looting." It gave no casualty figures nor said what had caused the violence, but reports linked it to plans to resettle Armenian refugees.



Power price rise to outstrip inflation

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

Domestic electricity consumers face price increases slightly above the current rate of inflation from April, the Government announced yesterday as it gave further details of the £15 billion privatization of the industry.

In the following two years — the politically sensitive run-up to the next general election — rises will be pegged to the overall increase in prices.

The package, unveiled in the Commons by Mr John Wakeham, the Secretary of State for Energy, reassured Conservative MPs worried that the sale would be accompanied by much bigger bills.

Labour insisted that prices did not need to increase at all because of reductions in the price of coal. Mr Frank Dobson, its chief energy spokesman, maintained that the industry was being fattened up for privatization. He also

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Typical APR (for 13.4%)

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Snowfall adds to misery of high winds and rain

By Libby Jukes and Ray Clancy

Snowfalls in the North of England and Scotland yesterday added to the problems caused by the high winds and torrential rain that continued to plague much of the country.

Avalanche warnings and high winds in the Scottish mountains prevented skiers from enjoying fresh snowfalls of more than 2in in places. The weathermen warned that stormy, unsettled conditions will persist for the next few days, with milder weather not expected until Friday.

Snow caused road closures on the A66 trans-Pennine route between Penrith and Scotch Corner and many high passes in the Lake District were

also affected. Rail services between London and Glasgow were disrupted when trees brought down power lines near Beattock, Dumfries and Gallo-way, and police warned drivers of high-sided vehicles on the M6 in Cumbria of high winds and snow.

Conditions on roads in the North deteriorated overnight and the

Detailed forecasts 20

police warned that snow could turn to ice, making driving treacherous.

In mid-Wales, heavy snowfalls blocked the A44 trunk road at Eisteddfod Gurig on the Powys-Dyfed border near Aberystwyth. Elsewhere, huge waves whipped up by high winds flooded homes around Colwyn Bay,

Cwyd, and took the roof off a chapel in Camarthen, Dyfed. The railway line to Cardiff was cut off by further flooding of the Severn near Gloucester.

An RAF helicopter winchman was in intensive care in Gwynedd Hospital last night after a mishap on exercise. The winchman, from RAF Valley, Anglesey, had been lowered by helicopter to a ledge on Holy Island, near Holyhead. When the aircraft returned moments later to pick him up, he was found unconscious in the sea.

In Shrewsbury, police launched a helicopter search for a car seen near the river at a point where it was thought to have become more than 20ft deep. Workmen at Ludlow

Castle, Shropshire, jumped to safety moments before a section of the 30ft, 14th-century perimeter wall collapsed, demolishing their scaffolding.

More than 120,000 homes in Somerset lost their electricity supply when the Hinkley Point nuclear power station was automatically closed down by sensors, because of the danger of salt spray from the Bristol Channel blowing on to a nearby sub-station.

Storm force winds battered the South-west and South of England, with gusts of more than 80mph. Extra engineers were called in to restore power to 2,000 people in Devon and 6,000 in Cornwall and a passenger ferry sank at its moorings on the Teign, Devon.

NEWS ROUNDUP

Union faces fresh call for 999 strike

Ambulance union leaders will face fresh calls to sanction a national strike when they meet more than 200 shop stewards from around the country tomorrow to discuss how the 22-week dispute can be sustained (Tim Jones writes).

Although a growing number of ambulance workers are demanding an escalation of the action, Mr Roger Poole, the unions' chief negotiator, and his colleagues are confident that they can resist calls to abandon 999 emergency cover. They are likely instead to renew their calls for more talks with Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health.

● Mrs Virginia Bottomley, Minister of State for Health, yesterday promised a top-level meeting to try to reduce the working hours of junior doctors. Her pledge was made after a meeting in Bradford with two representatives of junior doctors fighting a local campaign to reduce their hours.

Mrs Bottomley said: "There is a big drop in the number of junior doctors doing onerous rotas. We want further good progress so by next September only one in eight will be working onerous rotas."

Police hunt gunman

Police were last night hunting a man who fired shots on a Liverpool to Southport passenger train. The shots broke a passenger window in the central carriage and the remains of shotgun pellets were found inside the carriage by British Transport Police and Merseyside Police. No one was injured.

Judge censures police

Two policemen who ignored a judge's order not to talk to each other during a trial in which Mr Kevin Taylor, a Manchester businessman, was acquitted of fraud were yesterday censured in court. Detective Inspector Tony Stephenson and Detective Sergeant Keith Ware admitted discussing a document during an overnight adjournment.

Judge Sachs, at Manchester Crown Court, said he accepted that the officers were deeply ashamed and that their court appearance was sufficient punishment. The document "could not have affected the trial outcome".

Backing for assembly

An elected assembly for Wales would be supported by most Welsh people, according to a survey published yesterday. The study, by Beaufort Research, showed that 56 per cent of the 1,076 respondents would support an assembly with substantial powers over public spending. Only 24 per cent of those questioned at 60 sampling points throughout Wales opposed the creation of an assembly.

The poll, carried out for the *Western Mail*, shows a dramatic about-turn from the 1979 devolution referendum when plans for an assembly were defeated by four to one.

Army bravery award

A tank commander received the Queen's Commendation for Brave Conduct yesterday for saving an Army captain during an exercise in Canada last May. Corporal John Perry, aged 30, acted after his Chieftain overturned and crushed a Land-Rover, trapping an exercise referee. Cpl Perry, fought through flames to drag out Captain Julian Snell, who was seriously injured, seconds before the vehicle exploded. The corporal, from Wool, Dorset, suffered second degree burns.

Papers face damages

Two newspaper groups in dispute over the "lifting" of stories must pay each other damages after a High Court ruling yesterday. Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, held that the *Daily Star* had infringed *Today's* "reporter's copyright" in quotes by Miss Marina Ogilvy, but did not outlaw the rewriting of stories from rival papers. It was held last year that *Today* breached the copyright of the *Daily Star's* sister, the *Daily Express*. Law Report, page 30

By-election test for Tories

Ulster Unionist MP dies of cancer

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The strength of support for the Conservative party in Northern Ireland will be tested at a by-election in the province following the death yesterday of Mr Harold McCusker, the Ulster Unionist MP.

The struggle to succeed Mr McCusker as MP for Upper Bann will be watched closely by officials at Conservative Central Office and within the Unionist leadership as the forthcoming by-election is the first since local Conservative associations won official support to affiliate with the National Union. It will also be the first time since partition in 1921 that a Conservative par-

ty candidate has stood in a by-election. Mr McCusker, aged 50, died of cancer in hospital early yesterday. He had first been treated for the illness 16 years ago, and leaves a wife, Jennifer, and three sons.

He was elected as an MP in 1974, having previously been a schoolteacher and production officer with the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

In a bitter condemnation of the Government released after his death, Mr McCusker reiterated his opposition to the

fact between Dr Garret Fitzgerald and Mrs Thatcher. The statement quotes the words he used in the House of Commons debate on the agreement in 1985, when he said he would carry to his grave the sense of injustice he had done to his constituents by exhorting them to put their trust in the House of Commons, which would one day meet its obligation to treat them as equal British citizens.

In 1987, he served a brief prison sentence for the non-payment of car tax in protest at the pact.

Mr McCusker had a majority of 17,361 at the last General Election in a five-cornered contest for the safe unionist seat.

A Conservative association was founded in the constituency last month and it is expected to affiliate with the national union at a meeting of the executive committee next week. The association is to pick a local person for the by-election, although it is understood that the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party will not field a candidate.

The contest will be watched by Unionists for any sign that the Conservative challenge is eroding their traditional support, especially among middle class voters.

Among those being suggested as contenders for the Ulster Unionist nomination are Mr Arnold Hatch, a local councillor, Mr Drew Nelson, a young solicitor and even Mr McCusker's wife.

Obituary, page 14

Crufts last London show

Crufts Dog Show said goodbye to Earls Court, London, yesterday. (Ruth Gledhill writes).

The show was won by a West Highland White Terrier.

Winning breeds: Rough Collie (Crown), West Highland White Terrier (Crown), Border Collie (Crown), Shetland Sheepdog (Crown), Boxer (Crown), German Shepherd Dog (Crown), Labrador Retriever (Crown), Golden Retriever (Crown), English Cocker Spaniel (Crown), Irish Setter (Crown), Irish Wolfhound (Crown), Scottish Fold (Crown), Manx (Crown), Welsh Corgi (Crown), Pembroke Welsh Corgi (Crown), Cardigan Welsh Corgi (Crown), Bull Terrier (Crown), Dalmatian (Crown), Doberman Pinscher (Crown), Great Dane (Crown), Mastiff (Crown), Newfoundlander (Crown), Old English Sheepdog (Crown), Otterhound (Crown), Pointer (Crown), Rottweiler (Crown), Saint Bernard (Crown), Saluki (Crown), Shar Pei (Crown), Siberian Husky (Crown), Smooth Fox Terrier (Crown), Staffordshire Bull Terrier (Crown), St. Leonards Terrier (Crown), Sussex Spaniel (Crown), Tenterhook Terrier (Crown), Treeing Walker Coonhound (Crown), Weimaraner (Crown), Wire Fox Terrier (Crown), Yorkshire Terrier (Crown).

Patten accuses Labour over poll tax details

By Nigel Williamson

Political Staff

The bitter dispute over the poll tax, which looks set to dominate the political agenda in the run-up to May's local elections, continued yesterday with the exchange of letters between the Government and Opposition front benches.

In a letter to Mr Neil Kinnock, who said at the weekend that he was in no hurry to reveal the details of Labour's poll tax alternative, Mr Chris Patten, Secretary of State for the Environment, said it was intolerable that the Opposition should enter the local elections covering up its intentions and "preventing public debate about them".

Saunders pleads not guilty as £20m fraud trial opens

Guinness case starts — in the canteen

By Paul Wilkinson

The Guinness affair fraud trial finally began yesterday with the jury panel being selected in the courthouse canteen.

Almost three years after inquiries began into alleged irregularities in the brewing group's 1986 battle with the Argyl food chain for control of the Distillers drinks empire, more than 100 potential jurors assembled at Southwark Crown Court, south London yesterday for the opening of the case.

Mr Justice Henry called for extra jurors because of the expected difficulty of selecting 12 people to see through a trial likely to last up to six months.

Even the specially adapted number two court could not accommodate them, so the judge found himself sitting at a cafeteria table next to the cashier's desk, examining each of his potential jurors.

They had each been issued with a three-page questionnaire asking if they had any connection with the four defendants, or any pressing domestic arrangement that six months' jury service would disrupt.

The whole scene was witnessed by the accused and their barristers, ranged alongside on the brown plastic canteen benches.

After 40 minutes, 20 potential jurors were found and the whole circus trooped up a floor for the day's work to begin in earnest. Then, after another delay for more of the behind-the-scenes activities that have been a feature of the



Order in court: Mr Ernest Saunders, in the foreground, with his co-defendants, Mr Gerald Ronson (to his left), Mr Anthony Parnes and Sir Jack Lyons, in the specially modified courtroom where the dock has been replaced by plastic tables. On the judge's bench, the only piece of furniture removed, is Mr Justice Henry. The jury sits to his right.

case since charges were first laid, 12 jurors were sworn in without problem.

It took the clerk of the court 25 minutes to read the indictment of 24 charges alleging

false accounting, theft and breaches of the Companies Act. Then Mr Justice Henry told the seven men and five women of the jury they could have the afternoon off to sort

out any problems the length of the case might pose. He told them they should empty their minds of anything they had heard about the case beforehand. "You are the

judges of the evidence and decide this case. You should start with an open mind and keep an open mind until you have heard all that is said by counsel on both sides."

Today Mr John Chadwick, one of three QCs engaged by the Crown will outline the prosecution case.

It revolves around allegations of an illegal share support operation by Guinness during its £2.7 billion takeover battle with Argyl for Distillers.

Seven leading City figures including the former Guinness chairman and chief executive, Ernest Saunders, face charges, but Mr Justice Henry ruled last September that because of the complexity of the case it should be split into two consecutive trials.

Today's involves Mr Saunders, aged 54; Gerald Ronson, aged 50, chairman of Heron International; the former City stockbroker Anthony Parnes, aged 44; and the financier Sir Jack Lyons, aged 74. They deny all the charges against them.

The court at Southwark has been specially adapted to accommodate the trial at a cost of £15,000. Every fixture except the judge's bench has been ripped out.

Four rows of office furniture replaced the lawyers benches and one wall of the courtroom has disappeared behind a library of box files, legal papers and documents.

The dock has been replaced by four plain plastic-topped tables.

The jury occupies a purpose-built box by the judge's bench and every spare seat will be taken up by journalists from all over the world.

The trial is expected to cost a record £20 million.

The four accused and the charges against them

The accused are: Ernest Walter Saunders, 54, of Putney, south-west London, former chairman and chief executive of Guinness; Gerald Maurice Ronson, 50, of Winstanley Road, Hampstead, north-west London, head of the Heron International group; Anthony Keith Parnes, 44, of London, a stockbroker; and Sir Isidore Jack Lyons, 74, of Campden Hill, Kensington, west London.

The charges, relating to various dates in 1986, allege: 1. Conspiracy to contravene Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958: Ernest Walter Saunders and Gerald Maurice Ronson conspired together and with Anthony Keith Parnes to induce Distillers shareholders to dispose of their shares in consideration for acquiring Guinness shares by dishonestly concealing that Guinness had given an indemnity to Heron International group companies in connection with the purchase and subsequent sale of Guinness shares; and that a fee of £5 million would be paid if the Guinness bid for Distillers succeeded.

2. Companies Act 1985: Saunders authorized or permitted Guinness to contravene the Companies Act 1985 by giving financial assistance for the acquisition of its own shares by giving an indemnity to the Heron International group in connection with the purchase and subsequent sale of Guinness shares and agreeing to pay a fee of £5 million if the Guinness bid for Distillers succeeded; Ronson aiding and abetting the offence.

3. False accounting: Ronson falsified a Heron Management Ltd invoice purporting to show that £2,875,000 was due from Guinness for "Services rendered year 31.3.87" and that Heron Management

had rendered services to Guinness in the amount of £2,875,000.

4. False accounting: Saunders, for the purpose of procuring payment by Guinness, produced or made use of a Heron Management invoice which to his knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £2,875,000 was due from Guinness for "Services rendered year 31.3.87".

5. Theft: Saunders and Ronson stole the right of Guinness to debit £2,875,000 to its account with National Westminster Bank.

6. False accounting: Ronson and Parnes falsified a Pima Service Corporation invoice purporting to show that \$4,800,000 was due from Guinness "For professional advice provided in connection with Distillers acquisitions".

7. False accounting: Saunders, for the purpose of procuring payment by the Guinness company, produced a Pima Service Corporation invoice which to his knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that \$4,800,000 was due from Guinness "For professional advice provided in connection

with Distillers acquisitions".

8. False accounting: Parnes falsified a Consultants Act Investments SA (C&I) invoice by making or concurring in an entry which was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £3,350,000 was due from Guinness "For Corporate Finance Advice Success Fee as agreed".

9. False accounting: Saunders and Parnes, for the purpose of procuring payment by Guinness, produced or made use of a C&I invoice which to their knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £3,350,000 was due from Guinness "For Corporate Finance Advice Success Fee as agreed".

10. Theft: Parnes stole the right of Guinness to debit £3,350,000 to its account with National Westminster Bank.

11. False accounting: Saunders and Parnes, for the purpose of procuring payment by Guinness, produced or made use of a Compagnie Internationale de Finance et Commerce (CIFO) invoice which to their knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that

£1,940,000 was due from Guinness as "Fee for advisory service, Re: Distillers PLC".

12. Theft: Parnes stole the right of Guinness to debit £1,940,000 to its account with National Westminster Bank.

13. False accounting: Saunders and Parnes, for the purpose of procuring payment by Guinness, produced or made use of an Erlanger & Company invoice which to their knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £1,495,000 was due from Guinness "For Work in connection with the acquisition of Distillers".

14. Conspiracy to contravene the Prevention of Fraud (Investments) Act 1958: Saunders and Lyons conspired to induce Distillers shareholders to dispose of their shares in consideration for acquiring Guinness shares by concealing that an indemnity had been given in respect of losses and expenses incurred by Zentral-Sparkasse und Kommerzbank Wien (ZKB) in connection with the purchase and subsequent sale of Guinness shares.

15. False accounting: Lyons falsified an entry in the draft for a ZKB invoice which was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £3 million was due

from Guinness "For Professional and Advisory Services including all Disbursements".

16. False accounting: Saunders and Lyons, for the purpose of procuring payment by Guinness, produced a ZKB invoice which to their knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £3 million was due from Guinness "For Professional and Advisory Services including all Disbursements".

17. Companies Act 1985: Saunders authorized or permitted Guinness to contravene the Companies Act 1985 by paying ZKB £254,000 to wholly or partly restore ZKB's financial position after it had acquired shares in Guinness; Lyons aided and abetted the offence.

18. False accounting: Lyons falsified a Konsulat SA invoice by making or concurring in an entry which was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £3 million was due from Guinness "For Advice in relation to strategy and execution in respect of the successful acquisition of Distillers PLC".

19. False accounting: Saunders and Lyons, for the purpose of procuring payment by Guinness, produced a Marketing & Acquisitions Consultants Ltd (MAC) invoice, which to their knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £5,200,000 was due from Guinness for "Advice in relation to strategy and execution in respect of the successful acquisition of Distillers PLC".

20. Theft: Saunders stole the right of Guinness to debit £5,200,000 to its account with National Westminster Bank.

21. Destroying company documents: Saunders destroyed a jottings book, correspondence, part pages of address books and a 1986 diary relating to the affairs of Guinness.

22. False accounting: Saunders, for the purpose of procuring payment by Guinness, produced a Marketing & Acquisitions Consultants Ltd (MAC) invoice, which to their knowledge was or may have been misleading, false or deceptive in that it purported to show that £5,200,000 was due from Guinness for "Advice in relation to strategy and execution in respect of the successful acquisition of Distillers PLC".

23. Theft: Saunders stole the right of Guinness to debit £5,200,000 to its account with National Westminster Bank.

24. Destroying company documents: Saunders destroyed a jottings book, correspondence, part pages of address books and a 1986 diary relating to the affairs of Guinness.

Jurors may get £8,000 for loss of earnings

By Frances Gibb

Legal Affairs Correspondent

Jurors in the Guinness trial who face loss of earnings may receive compensation of up to about £8,000 if they sit for six months, as a result of the Lord Chancellor's rules for jurors' allowances.

However, for many jurors a long trial will still mean a loss of income. Those who continue to be paid by employers do not qualify for any loss of earnings allowance; on the other hand, with a trial running to six months, the chances of

employers reimbursing their absent staff must be slight.

The daily allowance for jurors is £32.35 for the first 10 days of any case. After that, there is a discretionary sum for loss of earnings of up to £64.70 a day.

If the juror normally earns £50 a day, for example, that is what he or she will receive.

However, no one will be paid more than the discretionary limit, even if they earn more.

It is therefore possible that each juror

could qualify for up to £7,764, plus the first 10-day allowance of £323, if the trial runs for six months, about 130 working days.

In addition, jurors are entitled to a subsistence allowance, paid to cover the cost of genuine travel expenses.

Jurors are paid £1.60 an hour if they travel for less than five hours on public transport; £3.25 for five to 10 hours; and £7.10 an hour for over 10 hours of travel. There are also mileage rates for those who travel by car or motorcycle.

Gas customer complaints double

By Robin Young

The number of customer complaints to the Office of Gas Supply (OGS) doubled last year, and in one area, North Thames, they nearly tripled.

Most of the 431 complaints OGS investigated concerned disputes over the size of bills.

It now appeared unlikely there would be much effective competition to British Gas before 1993.

Mr James McKinnon, the director-general of gas supply, said when presenting his annual report yesterday.

"We believe that the major quantity of new gas in which other suppliers will share will

not come ashore until late 1992 or 1993."

Mr McKinnon raised the possibility that British Gas should take voluntary steps to make competition possible at an earlier date.

He confirmed that an anomaly in British Gas pricing encourages some large users to turn up to one-third more gas than they need, to reduce their final bills.

OGS had removed a series of discrepancies by which British Gas reduced its prices to industrial and commercial users in steps, thus encouraging many whose usual consumption was toward the top end of one price scale to "flare

off" gas so that they could qualify for a lower bill, he said.

An anomaly remains, however, in the distinction between tariff and contract customers, which is set at an annual consumption of 25,000 therms.

Contract prices are 10p per therm lower than the domestic tariff and customers with a number of individual premises can benefit from further reductions in the contract sector, though not on the ordinary tariff.

Local authorities and businesses which institute energy-saving programmes can find their bills go up, while those who waste gas save money.

Mr McKinnon said: "I am told that it can be worthwhile for users whose ordinary consumption would be between 18,000 and 19,000 therms to turn up the heat and open the windows so that they burn a third more gas to take them over the 25,000-therm level and into the contract sector."

He would favour a revised tariff so that charges fell smoothly according to the amount used after the first 5,000 therms. The change need not reduce British Gas profits.

Annual Report of the Office of Gas Supply 1989 (Stationery Office, £7.50).

Little green bottle rides out a storm

By Ray Clancy

The popularity of the chic green bottles containing the fashionable Perrier bubbles was not diminished among restaurant-goers yesterday in spite of tests being carried out after a contamination scare in the United States.

Most London gourmets seemed unaware of the discovery by American scientists of small quantities of benzene, a solvent which has been linked with cancer, in Perrier bottles in North Carolina and Georgia.

They had not heard either that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food had ordered tests in Britain "as a precautionary measure."

"Contaminated Perrier, really, I hadn't heard that," Mr John Morris, aged 28, an accountant lunching at the Café des Amis du Vin in Covent Garden, said.

"If it is in America that proves it, the Americans are a bit faddy about these things. If we listened to every food and drink scare we would believe that everything gives you cancer," he added, drinking another glass of Perrier.

His fellow diner Mr Richard James, aged 30, also an accountant, said: "I drink Perrier because I like the taste, the bubbles and the bottle. I would not consider changing to another brand

unless there was real evidence of a problem."

In other restaurants and bars the "eau minérale naturelle gazeuse" was evident on most tables. Le Muescadet restaurant in the West End said: "Perrier is by far the most popular mineral water. It could be the shape of the bottle, the unique bubbles or the taste, but it is very, very popular."

About 240 million litres of Perrier will be drunk nationally in 1990 according to Perrier UK which has ordered independent tests of its own.

The French parent company has ruled out contamination at the source. The Perrier Group has voluntarily recalled its entire stock in the United States and Canada while it investigates the possibility of contamination but there are no plans to do likewise in Europe.

Perrier said the British supplies bottled at Vergèze in the south of France used a different production line from the one for American stocks.

The Ministry of Agriculture said results of tests in Britain were not expected for several days. "The tests are being carried out as a precaution. We expect results soon and we stress there is no cause for alarm and no immediate danger to public health."

French share rash, page 8

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Law Commission review

Rape in marriage could be made a criminal offence

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

The Government announced a review of the law yesterday to consider making rape within marriage a criminal offence.

The review, which will be carried out by the Law Commission, was announced in a written Parliamentary answer by Mr John Patten, minister of state at the Home Office.

A consultation paper is expected to be ready early next year. Mr Patten said, however, that the Government "will consider the conclusions most carefully" before taking any decision to seek changes in the law.

The issue was last examined by the Government in 1984 when the Criminal Law Revision Committee concluded by a narrow majority that a change in the law was not desirable as it raised issues about the nature of marriage and about violence in the domestic context which went beyond the scope of the criminal law.

Under guidelines first set down in 1975 it has long been held in law that marriage in itself constituted consent to sexual intercourse.

However, a Scottish High Court ended husbands' legal immunity north of the Border last year when it ruled that a man could be charged with raping his wife when the two were living together. The decision was upheld on appeal and was widely welcomed by women's groups.

The Government's review will now examine the case for bringing the law in England

and Wales into line with Scotland.

Mr Patten said that the decision to look at the question again had come out of the ministerial group on women's issues, of which he is chairman. The group has been concerned with an increase in domestic violence.

Mr Patten said: "The Government believes that legislation in this area should proceed from a broad measure

A change in the law to make boys aged 14 legally liable for rape is proposed in a private member's Bill due before the Commons this week (Francesca Gibb writes). Sir William Shelton, Tory MP for Streatham, south London, has put forward the measure, which has Home Office support, as part of his Bill to tighten the law on kerb-crawling. He said he had come across a number of cases where boys under 14 had attacked women.

of agreement after careful examination of the wider issues".

Changes in the law on rape in marriage would end one of the anomalies of English law under which the police can prosecute a husband for indecent assault yet are powerless to deal with the more serious crime of rape (Our Crime Correspondent writes).

According to Women Against Rape, the English legal system lumps behind a number of other countries. Several Scandinavian countries, the Soviet Union and

some states in the United States and Australia already have legislation against rape within marriage.

The organization said that, at present, the only chance for a wife to bring a prosecution is if she is legally separated from her husband or there is an order on the husband against contact with his wife. A West London court sentenced a man to five years in 1987 for a rape which involved a breach of such a court order.

Yesterday, both women's groups and police who specialize in domestic violence, welcomed the possibility of change in the English system but warned that a new law could reveal a powerful undertow of cases.

No one knows exactly how many cases might be prompted by legal change but few doubt the number could be sizeable.

Women Against Rape produced a survey in 1985 of London women showing that one in seven said they were raped in marriage. Many never come forward because of the problems of leaving home and supporting their children.

About 200 of the 286 women dealt with over the past 10 months by one of the new London police centres specializing in domestic violence have mentioned rape.

One investigator said yesterday that a new law may well open the floodgates of cases putting greater pressure on the rape centres now being opened by most police forces.

Himalayas trip on a penny-farthing

MICHAEL POWELL



Mr Paul Graham, a lawyer, setting off from Westminster Bridge yesterday on the penny-farthing that he will ride over the Himalayas. The ride proper will begin from Delhi on Friday, finishing 10

days and 600km later in a Tibetan New Year audience with the Dalai Lama at his residence in Dharamsala. For Mr Graham, aged 47, from Barnes, west London, it will be his first trip to India and he

hopes to raise £20,000 for the British charity Help Tibet to maintain and equip health clinics serving both Indians and an estimated 100,000 Tibetan refugees in remote areas of the Indian Himalayas.

Win helps marketing of ski suit

Three winners shared yesterday's Portfolio Platinum prize of £2,000, including an inventor who will use his prize to market high-technology ski suits.

Mr David Conway, of Worthing, West Sussex; Mr Sybil Williams, of Weymouth, Dorset; and Mr Alan Vero, of Sarbiton, Surrey, will each receive £666.66.

Mr Williams, a retired scientist who has invented a stretch fabric for ski suits, yachting clothing and possibly diving gear, said he plans to produce 50 garments in the next few weeks.

"The fabric contains Lycra which is very expensive so I might use the money to help with production," he said.

Mr Conway, who has read *The Times* for over 25 years, said he will buy his wife an extra-large valentine and take her out for dinner.

Lady Thynne 'forced to stack bottles'

Suzanne, Lady Valentine Thynne, suffered a severe back injury after being forced to stack cases of champagne on shelves, the High Court was told yesterday.

Lady Thynne, aged 46, was working as a catering supervisor for G T Management Ltd, investment managers, of 8 Devonshire Square, London, when she suffered a prolapsed disc, the court was told.

Lady Thynne alleges the company was negligent and in breach of its duty by requiring her to push heavy trolleys and lift loads likely to cause injury. The allegations are denied. The case continues today.

Man freed as trip to see witness is refused

By Mark Seester

A man charged with rape was freed yesterday after a Metropolitan Police detective said financial restrictions prevented him from going to Glasgow to find the alleged victim.

Judge Lambrey freed Kenneth Hamilton, aged 30, who had been in custody since his arrest last August, after Detective Constable Michael Fairies said he would have had a better chance of finding the victim if he had been allowed to go to Scotland. However, the cost had not been sanctioned.

Mr Brian Warner, for the prosecution, said: "It fits in with lots of monetary restrictions on police officers at present." The judge said: "It seems very odd to me that the police cannot go to make inquiries unless there is an authorization for the cost."

He turned down a prosecution application for a further delay in the case against Mr Hamilton, of north London, after it was adjourned last month because the alleged victim did not appear.

Mr Colin Campbell, for the defence, said no evidence was offered against Mr Hamilton when he pleaded not guilty to burglary with an offensive weapon, a knife, and intent to rape a university student, aged 20, at a flat at Tottenham, north London, last August. He also denied indecent assault.

The judge was told the student moved to Glasgow soon after the alleged incident and left a forwarding address. She then moved again and failed to keep in contact with the officer in charge.

The judge said the student would have to accept a substantial part of the blame for failing to keep in touch.

The Metropolitan Police said last night it would not have been "operationally constructive" to send a detective as there was little prospect of the witness being found.

PC says inspector took part in race abuse campaign

By John Young

A police inspector who spent 10 years in the Royal and Diplomatic Protection Service and was at one time responsible for guarding the Princess Royal, was accused yesterday of taking part in a campaign of racial abuse against a black constable.

An industrial tribunal in Ashford, Kent, was told that between Christmas 1988 and April 26, 1989, while both Inspector Ian Thirkell and Police Constable William



Inspector Thirkell: Accused of racial discrimination

Halliday were based at Orpington, Kent, the latter was subjected to racial abuse at least a dozen times a day. Mr Thirkell is accused, together with the Metropolitan Police, of racial discrimination.

PC Halliday, aged 30, told the tribunal that he joined the police in August 1978 and began work at Orpington in June 1985. Until December 1988 he had been the target of some racial jokes but they were generally light-hearted.

However, from about Christmas 1988 certain people had begun saying to him "hello coon" or "hello nigger". He had been called "a spade" and "blackie". He told the tribunal this would happen about a dozen times during an eight-hour duty.

"There were also a lot of references to my new child, whether or not I would bring him up to match white ladies' handbags, or even to rape white women," he said.

PC Halliday said three people were responsible for most of these remarks; one was Mr Thirkell. Asked by his counsel, Mr Kurnum Menon, how he felt about it, PC Halliday said he was very surprised by the frequency of the abuse.

Mr Menon said language used by Mr Thirkell and some colleagues went far beyond banter. PC Halliday eventually made a complaint to Scotland Yard on the advice of the Police Federation.

The case had been brought before the tribunal because it appeared that all internal procedures had been exhausted. Mr Menon said he doubted whether there had been any serious investigation; Scotland Yard officers had not only not pursued the complaints procedure but they had also failed to carry out any proper investigation.

Mr Menon said that on the night of April 25 last year, after PC Halliday had endured four months of abuse, he was working with a constable in a radio car. They agreed to take a tea-break at Chislehurst station and during that break the other man said: "You are not drinking tea while you're in my car."

He replied that he would do so whenever he liked, at which point the other constable stormed out and was later nowhere to be seen.

PC Halliday returned to Orpington to report the incident and was told that he had taken too much time off. Mr Thirkell refused to listen to his explanations. He was taken off car duties and put on routine station officer work, which was far less interesting. The hearing continues.



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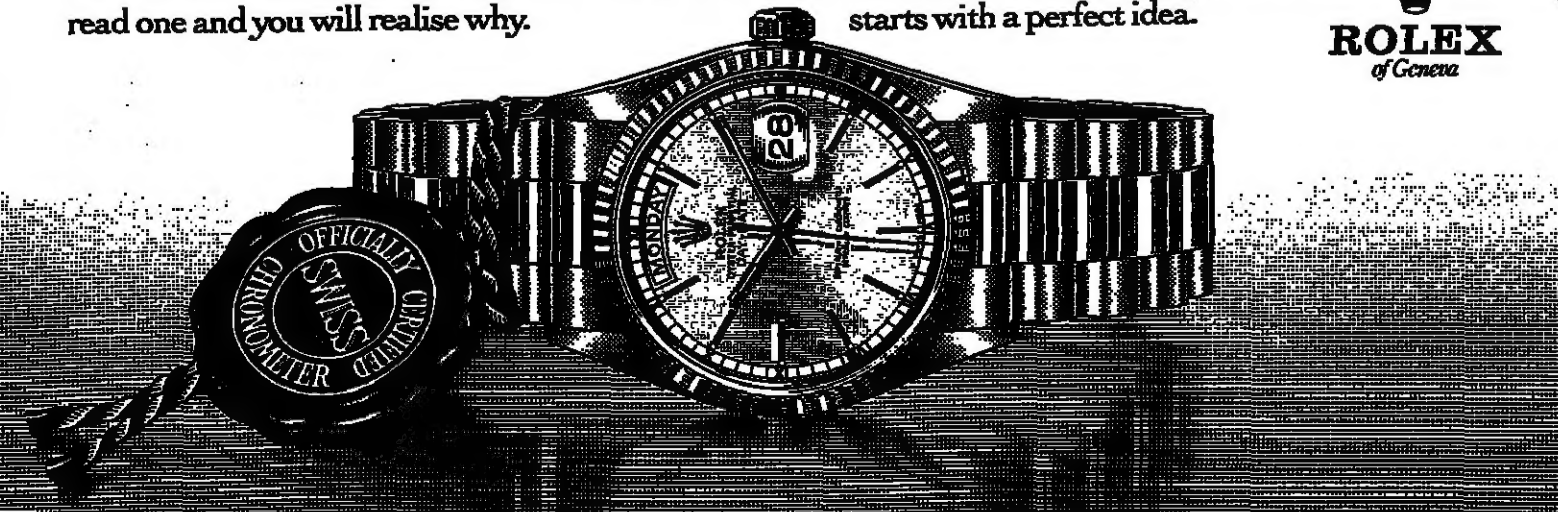
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The Archers

Pargetter 'leaves' Ambridge

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Nigel Pargetter, the wimpish Horsey Henry of *The Archers*, has been written out of the long-running radio series for the second time in three years.

The last episode featuring the chinless wonder of Ambridge will be heard tomorrow - on Valentine's Day - just four months after his engagement to the flighty Lizzy Archer was called off.

Nigel Carrington, the actor who has tried to make Nigel less jolly and silly, was told of the character's demise several days after recording what will be his last words in the Radio 4 soap opera.

In a letter to the actor, Miss Ruth Patterson, editor of *The Archers*, said: "I am afraid

that after long and hard consideration, I have decided we no longer need the part of Nigel Pargetter in the programme."

"I stress it is because the character has become a luxury I can no longer afford and I have no intention of recasting. Nigel will simply be unheard."

Mr Carrington is one of four actors in *The Archers* who contracted hepatitis at Broadcasting House, London, in May 1987 after eating infected food at a radio award presentation. He received compensation of £2,500.

In 1986, proposals to drop Nigel Pargetter, after the move of the actor then playing the part to ITV's *Crossroads*, led to considerable criticism

and he was reintroduced. Miss Patterson said yesterday: "Elizabeth and Nigel's marriage was not to be. As a result, Nigel has dropped into the background. The character has not been killed off. He will be referred to on and off but he has joined the ranks of the unheard of Ambridge."

"The character was a luxury once he was no longer interacting with Elizabeth. I wanted other people to interact with her instead."

"He was a tremendously fun character and he has served a purpose but characters come and go. If the cast remained exactly the same that limits the production and the possible scale of the story line."

Pilots say examiner shortage at CAA is hitting airlines

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

A shortage of Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) examiners is preventing more than 200 new pilots from taking their examinations to become commercial airline pilots, it was claimed yesterday.

The authority employs only 16 examiners throughout Britain. The Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators said yesterday that pilots who have completed their training are having to wait four months before they are tested for their Commercial Pilot Licence and instrument ratings. The delay is causing airlines big problems as they are trying to make up for a shortage of pilots.

The guild, whose members include more than 1,300 airline pilots, has demanded that military and civilian instructors should be allowed to conduct the examinations to ease the delays.

"Many schools have slowed down the rate at which they train pilots as a result of the shortage of examiners," Mr Fred Stringer, the master of the guild, said. "Most of those training to become civil pilots have to pay for their own training and this can cost up to £60,000. It is, therefore, completely unacceptable if these individuals are unable to be tested by the CAA for their licence or instrument rating."

"The reason for these delays is given as a shortage of examiners and although the

authority is trying to recruit more examiners, we believe they are severely constrained by the salary they can offer."

The authority has recently announced a 50 per cent increase in the cost of the final examination, from £195 to £290, in spite of the delays. The guild said this was "totally unacceptable".

"We find the authority to be most inefficient and the charges made for their services to be excessive," Mr Stringer said. "Urgent action is required to improve the efficiency of the CAA as a whole and the licensing department in particular. It could be that

Many schools have slowed down rate of training

with the limited finances available to the authority improvements can be only minimal. If this is the case, then we suggest that the time has come to consider the privatization of the CAA."

The authority said last night that it was planning to recruit an extra six examiners to cope with the sudden demand.

"We are doing everything we can to cut back on the delays," a spokesman said. "Part of the problem is that many candidates are put in for the tests before they are ready and we now have a failure rate of over 50 per cent. We have

written to all the flying schools pointing out that it is in everyone's interest if only those who are ready for the final examination are entered.

"We also believe that, at least at the beginning of their career, pilots are subjected to the very stringent tests of a full CAA examiner."

The authority handled 4,000 tests last year and it expects to deal with more than 5,000 this year.

The designer of a "unique" prototype aircraft destroyed by arsonists won £236,345 damages in the High Court yesterday against the owner of the hangar in which it was kept.

The versatile LDA-500 Boxer, designed to fly cheaply and safely in the Third World, was developed by Mr David Lockspeiser, a former RAF pilot.

He hoped the project would attract business ventures, but the aircraft was destroyed with nine others when intruders used aviation fuel to set fire to the hangar at Old Sarum Airfield, Salisbury, Wiltshire in January 1987.

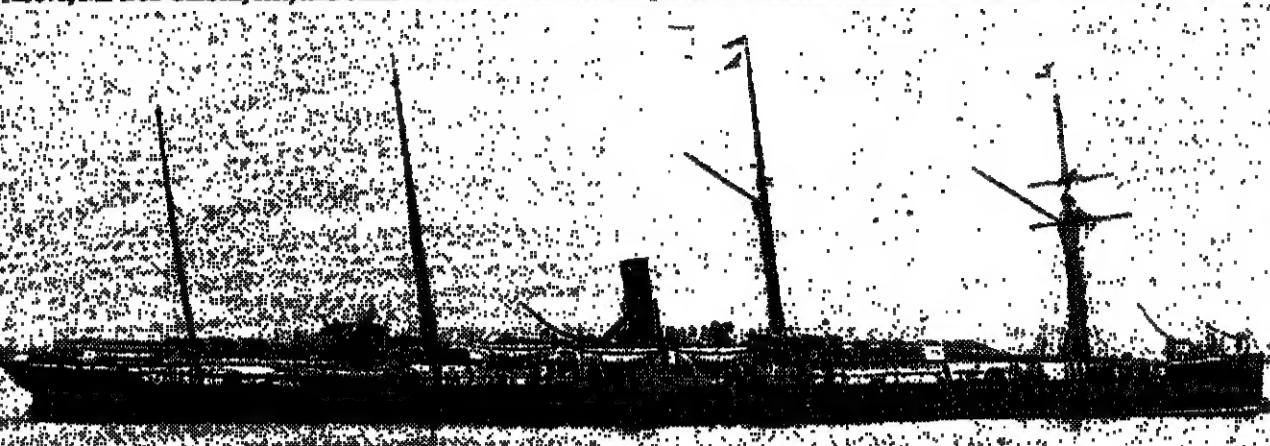
Mr Lockspeiser sued the hangar owner, Brooklands Aircraft Company, claiming it had agreed to insure the Boxer while it worked on it for him. Brooklands had denied any such agreement.

Judge Hamerton, QC, gave Brooklands leave to appeal against the award.

Divers stumble on wreck's porcelain treasure



Above, Mr Bob Gibson, left, and other divers with some of the porcelain from the Duke of Buccleuch, below, in its heyday.



By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

Members of an amateur Sussex-based diving team may have made their fortune by stumbling on a 101-year-old shipwreck in the Solent.

The Duke of Buccleuch, a four-masted iron steamer, sank on February 6, 1889, after colliding with a sailing ship two miles off Littlehampton on its way from Antwerp to Calcutta.

All 48 hands were lost, but according to the findings of the five-man team, the vessel's cargo of hand-painted Belgian porcelain survived.

A number of pieces in the hold of the vessel, which is lying on the sea bed at a depth of 58 metres, are being sent for valuation.

"We came across it by chance, coming back from another wreck site. We put a magnetometer in the water on the way back and it picked up what looked like a wreck," Mr Bob Gibson, a team member, said.

The discovery of the ship, which was owned by British Duval Lines, throws new light on the controversy surrounding its sinking. According to records quoting survivors of the other vessel, the Vandalia, it was holed after ramming the ship in darkness.

However, Mr Gibson said the state of the wreck, which is resting on its keel, did not support the story. "If it hit the ship head on, you could expect some damage to the front. There was none to be seen and all you could see was a massive great break in the side."

"So we have a feeling that the sailing ship came along and hit the Duke, sending it straight to the bottom," Mr Gibson said. He said further dives could be risky because of dangerous tidal flows.

Gummer will face hostile farmers

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

Angry farmers are expected to give Mr John Gummer, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, a rough ride when he defends government policy at the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union (NFU) in London today.

Mr Gummer, who will speak after Sir Simon Gourlay, president of the union, has delivered his "state of the industry" address, has agreed to spend almost an hour answering questions from the floor, which are likely to reflect a widespread belief among farmers that they are getting a raw deal.

The annual Government review of agriculture, published last week, showed farming income rose by 8 per cent in real terms last year and a further recovery was likely this year. The NFU said, however, that

this had to be set against a 27 per cent fall in 1988.

In a letter to 200 MPs, Sir Simon claimed that in spite of the improvement in income, the underlying decline in the industry's profitability was continuing at an "unsustainable" rate of 9 per cent a year.

Mr Sean Rickard, the NFU's chief economist, said that while the level of investment in farming had held steady or risen slightly in most European Community member countries, it had fallen by 45 per cent in Britain since the mid-1980s.

"We are in the critical run-up to the completion of the single market in 1992, and if we are to be able to compete once all the barriers come down, investment plans and resources need to be available now," Mr Rickard said. Farm-

ers are particularly aggrieved by what they regard as Mr Gummer's failure to fight strongly enough in Brussels for a devaluation of the green pound, the over-valued exchange rate used in EC agricultural trade.

It is estimated that a full devaluation of the green pound now, to bring it in line with its market value, would push up British farmgate prices by about 8 per cent and give farmers a 40 per cent rise in income over a full year.

Mr Gummer's problem is that devaluation of the green pound would also raise consumer food prices by about 1.2 per cent at a time when the Government is seeking to bring inflation down. It is also resisted by other EC member states.

Mr Rickard said: "A deval-

uation is often presented as a windfall gain for British farmers. We argue that it is just a catching-up process. We would simply get the price rises we would have received gradually as the pound weakened against other currencies if the green exchange rate had not existed."

Agriculture has been buffeted over the past year by scares over salmonella in eggs and poultry, listeria in dairy products, and alleged misuse of pesticides. Beef and dairy farmers were also hit by lead contamination of imported animal feed.

In addition, there is concern about the possibility of compulsory restraints on use of chemical fertiliser as one of various measures that may have to be taken to reduce nitrate pollution of water.

Medals recall heroine of resistance

SALEROOM
by Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

The best French resistance group of medals likely to come on the market is being offered at Christie's in London.

The medals, including the George Medal, the Legion d'honneur and the Croix de Guerre, were awarded to Mme Berthe Fraser (1894-1956), the heroine who successfully smuggled through German lines the British secret agent Wing-Commander Forest Frederick Edward Yeo-Thomas (1901-1964), or "The White Rabbit", thereby "saving London from being blitzed off the map", as Mr James Hammond, Christie's expert, puts it.

Setting an estimate has proved difficult. "Because we have never had a really important resistance group before, we have no idea what it will sell for," Mr Hammond

said. He has opted for a conservative figure of £6,000.

In 1943, the White Rabbit was involved in "Operation Marie Claire", carrying a suitcase full of crucial documents about the new German secret weapon, the V-2 rockets, to his masters in Whitehall.

Having successfully made contact with Mme Fraser, his guide, by asking for an out-sized brasserie in her shop in her home town of Arras, the two of them then heard to their dismay that a German encampment had just been set up between Arras and the

appointed pick-up point.

Undeterred, the ingenious Mme Fraser organized a mock funeral, complete with undertakers, hearse and coffin. Yeo-Thomas's documents, known as the Parsifal Mail, were concealed in the coffin while the White Rabbit hid beside it under the flowers. After a tense moment when the cortege was questioned by a German patrol, the procession was allowed to pass, and the agent continued home with his precious parcel.

Mme Fraser, who was later captured, tortured and sentenced to death, but refused to betray her fellows and was saved by the Allies in 1944. However, her health had been damaged, and she died in 1956.

The group is the highlight in a collection of 34 George Medals amassed by the British

collector Mr W H Fevery and to be offered on March 20. With 1990 the 50th anniversary of both the George Medal and the Blitz, he hopes it is the right time to sell.

Dog lovers still in the mood for canine delights after the end of the Crufts Dog Show last Sunday, hastened to Bonhams for its annual auction of dog art yesterday. Two Red Setter fanciers batted it out for a solemn portrait of a dog, "Strelley Performer", by the English 19th/20th century artist Henry Crowther, until the hammer came down at £5,000 (estimate £600 to £900).

An anonymous buyer paid £420 (within estimate) for an upholstered, cushioned and tasseled dog kennel based on one made for Queen Marie-Antoinette's lap dog.

Mobile communication systems

British operators 'face losing out'

By Nick Nattall, Technology Correspondent

British companies operating in the field of mobile communications may lose out to foreign suppliers through intense competitiveness and lack of co-operation, according to researchers at the University of Manchester.

Experts at the university's Institute of Science and Technology claim that the public is rightly confused by the plethora of mobile communication services on offer - car telephones, paging systems and telephones that people can carry around. The confusion may result in people ignoring the new technologies altogether, the experts say.

In a report compiled for the institute's school of management, Professor Dale Littler and Miss Fiona Leverick say that, unless action is taken, the only beneficiaries of the intense competition will be global suppliers, mainly the Japanese.

They have singled out "telepoint" or CT2 as symptomatic. Launched last year, telepoint involves the use of cordless handsets that enable people to dial anywhere in the world. However, customers cannot receive incoming calls.

Four consortia were li-

censed by the Government to operate the system: Phonepoint, mainly a British Telecom venture; Zonephone, principally owned by Ferranti; Mercury Callpoint, a joint venture between Mercury, Motorola and Shaye; and BYPS, a consortium of Barclays Bank, Phillips and Shell.

As yet, only two, Zonephone and Phonepoint, have officially launched services. Professor Littler and Miss Leverick claim that the development of the four services has been a shambles.

Telepoint requires the setting up of base stations in convenient areas such as railway stations, high streets and airports. "What is clear is that

all four consortia have been unable to set up base stations as quickly as they would have liked. Without a significant number of these, telepoint phones are as good as useless," the report notes.

The researchers also denounce the way each of the consortia has established differing technologies, making all four systems incompatible.

It has been agreed that telepoint companies must solve this divergence by 1990. Yet, the report says, "none of the consortia can provide a satisfactory explanation of how this will be done, although customers are reassured that telepoint systems will still support the obsolescent original handsets".

The report states: "There is a strong case for collaboration between the four operators. Unless this occurs, all four will find themselves losing out to alternative products."

"Unfortunately, although this may seem the sensible solution, the Government will not permit it in the interests of competition."

The researchers accuse the Government of striving to open up the mobile communications market too fast.

Almost as soon as they had licensed telepoint, the Department of Trade and Industry, announced the licensing of Personal Communication Network (PCN) operators whose wares are expected no later than 1993. PCNs are being billed as a cheap, reliable, two-way personal communications system.

The report also accuses operators of "diving into the field" without any consideration for what the public wants.

Instead of taking a risk that they may be left with outmoded technology, the researchers say, "it is far more likely that the customer will postpone purchase".

Losing their hearts to tune of £70m

By Robin Young

Britons are in the course of spending over £70 million just to show they love each other. It no longer costs little to deliver that simple message: "I love you."

To get the point across this year, more than £15 million is being expended on some 16 million valentine cards at an average cost of 95p each.

Another £1.04 million is spent on postage stamps to send six million of the cards by post.

Then there is the £50 million lavished on presentation boxes of chocolates. Add smaller amounts for further gifts of jewellery, perfumes and toiletries and for the love-dovey announcements that will fill thousands of column inches in newspapers, then tot up the price of

candlelit dinners at home or in restaurants, and the total approaches £1.50 for every man, woman and child in the country.

According to the Greeting Card and Calendar Association, the biggest spenders on valentine cards are men, for whom this is the biggest card-buying time of the year. It is still women, though, who buy most of the cards - 56 per cent of the total.

Mr Stuart King of the association, says that traditional romance always sells best. In spite of some rise in demand for humorous and vulgar cards, hearts and flowers predominate.

Mr King said: "My own company, Carlton Cards, and the industry as a whole, expect a continued trend towards

more expensive romantic cards, especially favoured by men in the higher income groups."

The 16 to 30 age group are the biggest buyers, but almost a quarter of cards are sold to the over-45s.

The number of cards sold increased from 13 million in 1987 to 15 million in 1988 and 15.2 million in 1989. The publishers are confident it will rise again.

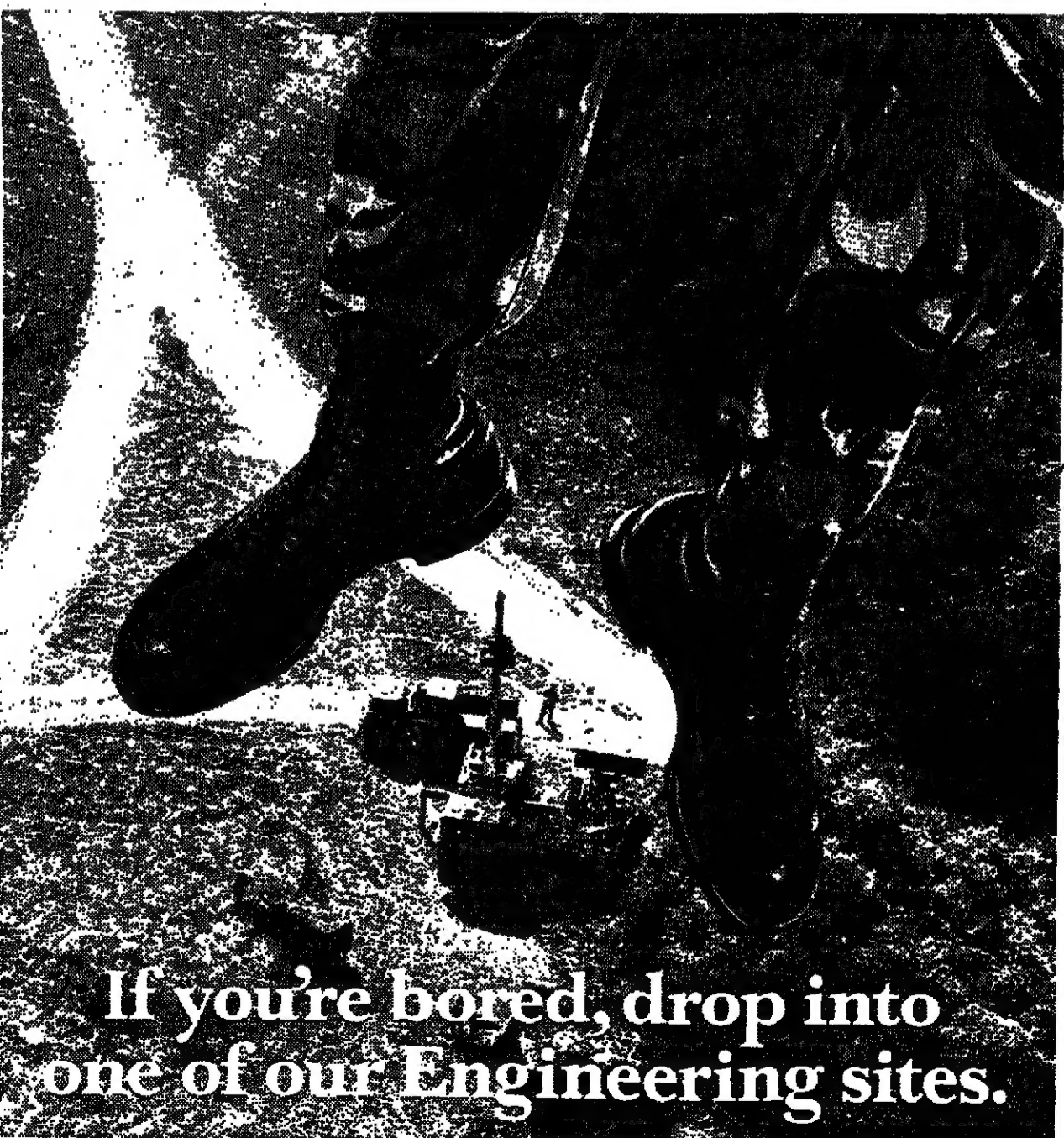
The older people get the more the likelihood that they sign their valentines," Mr King said. "They tend to be less bashful."

According to the Royal Mail, though, it is those who live in the north who are most likely to post their cards, preferring the anonymity of the post. Mr Bill Cockburn,

the managing director of the Royal Mail, says that more valentine cards per head are posted in the north of England than in any other area, but that the traffic is growing everywhere by about 7 per cent a year.

The Royal Mail is to encourage that trend this year with its new first class greeting stamps, featuring such love-sick motifs as the man in the moon, a clown, a teddy bear, the Queen of Hearts, and comedian Stan Laurel.

Britain's enthusiasm for Valentine's Day - named, it is said, for a saint who fell in love with his executioner's blind daughter - is exceeded only by that of amorous Americans. The cards and chocolates they buy are calculated to cost £446 million.



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UK to back international pact for total ban on PCBs

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

Britain is to join eight other European countries in banning the toxic chemicals PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls). The decision will be made at the Third North Sea Conference, which takes place at The Hague in three weeks time.

Mr Chris Patten, the Secretary of State for the Environment, will agree to call in and destroy all remaining British stocks of the chemicals.

Thousands of tonnes are still in use as coolants in electrical equipment, in spite of a ban on their manufacture since the 1970s.

However, if Mr Patten is to counter Britain's reputation as the dirty man of Europe, he will have to act decisively over the dumping, in the North Sea, of sewage sludge and industrial waste, which all other countries taking part in the conference have phased out.

Britain permits water companies to dump nine million tonnes of sewage sludge contaminated with chemical effluent into the North Sea every year. Industry is allowed to dump more than three million tonnes of waste, even though Britain signed an

agreement at the Second North Sea Conference in London in 1987 to stop dumping by the end of last December.

Today, Mr Patten is to meet the conference host, Mrs Johanna Maji-Weggen, the Dutch Transport Minister, and Britain's dumping is likely to be high on the agenda.

The conference, which takes place on March 7 and 8, is expected to touch on the epidemic of distemper virus that wiped out 70 per cent of the North Sea's common seals in 1988, even though a direct link between pollution and the virus has not been established.

PCBs, which accumulate in the fatty tissues of marine mammals such as seals and dolphins, impairing fertility and damaging the immune system, will be phased out in all the countries taking part in the conference: Britain, France, Belgium, West Germany, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands.

There is, however, disagreement over dates. Norway, Denmark and Sweden want

PCBs to be phased out by 1995, but West Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and Switzerland are pressing for 2000. Britain and France say it is impracticable before 2005, although Britain's position is not thought to be rigid.

The measure is also likely to provoke controversy as it may involve the destruction of the remaining stocks of PCBs by incineration.

This approach, supported by Britain in preference to long-term storage, may prove unpopular with people who live near the industrial incinerators, like that operated in South Wales by the waste management company Rechm.

Some environmentalists claim that burning PCBs produces dangerous by-products. Britain will support two other initiatives to protect the North Sea at the conference.

One will be a memorandum of understanding about the protection of dolphins and porpoises - a Swedish initiative that puts wildlife on the North Sea Conference agenda for the first time.

The other will be a Norwegian proposal to ban certain

oil-based lubricants used in drilling oil and gas wells. As a result of their use, British oil rigs alone produce thousands of tonnes of toxic mud that fall to the seabed.

However, it is Britain's continued use of the North Sea as a dump for sewage sludge and industrial waste that will present the biggest challenge to Mr Patten, who committed himself last November to dispelling Britain's image as the dirty man of Europe. He would nail the lie, he said, "not by words, but by actions".

Britain's failure to meet the deadline for the ending of waste dumping on December 31, 1989, and the lack of a clear target date - reflected in the recent application for three dumping licences to be extended into 1990 - has aroused resentment in other countries.

The British position has long been that there is no proof that the dumping has caused any damage to the marine environment. Other countries have preferred "the precautionary principle" - not taking the risk.

body else. From my own perspective of things like elephants, unless ordinary people become involved, there won't be elephants in the future."

Written nominations for the award of up to 250 words, typewritten if possible, should be sent to *The Times/PM Environment Award*, PO Box 486, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN, to arrive by last post on Friday, March 9. Photographs, which are non-returnable, will help. A daytime telephone number for people nominated is essential.

Humphrey walks into a job

JULIAN HERBERT



Humphrey, the latest feline member of the Downing Street staff, being introduced outside the Cabinet Office yesterday by Mr Kevin Lapwood, a civil servant. The black and white tom was taken to have volunteered his services to the Cabinet Office when he walked in off the street. He was named by staff after Sir Humphrey, the permanent secretary of Yes,

Minister fame, and given his own basket in the office of Mr Lapwood, an accommodation officer. Humphrey's main duty is to help keep down the mice population in the Downing Street complex. He joins an illustrious list of cats who have served the nation, the most famous being the late Wulferforce, a mouse-catcher at 10 Downing Street for 14 years.

Canal plan 'a threat to largest bat colony'

By Libby Jukes

Two conservation groups are at loggerheads over plans for the development of the once-derelict Basingstoke canal, which the Nature Conservancy Council fears could force Britain's largest bat colony out of house and home.

The Greywell Tunnel, at Greywell, Hampshire, was blocked by a clay slip in 1932 and is used for winter hibernation by 2,000 bats. They are protected under the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act from being disturbed, captured or killed, with a £2,000 fine for each animal affected.

The NCC says that the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Preservation Society's planned re-opening of the tunnel would cause inhospitable draughts, and has told the county council that giving consent for renovation would amount to an eviction order for the bats.

The NCC also believes that increased recreational use of the canal between Greywell and West Byfleet has reduced rare plants such as the water violet and the lesser bladderwort to the point of extinction over the past two years. It plans to notify 25 miles out of the 32-mile stretch as a Site of Special Scientific Interest.

Mr Andy Byfield, of the NCC, said the area had been recognized as being of botanical importance for over 40 years. "There is a critical level beyond which boating is no longer compatible with wild-life preservation."

The dispute could end in the High Court if discussions between the NCC and the society over a compromise "zoned use" plan fail, and the society invokes its right of access to the tunnel under the 200-year-old Basingstoke Navigation Act.

Conservation leaders praise award scheme



Two of the world's most celebrated environmentalists spoke yesterday of the value of the £5,000 Environment Award, run jointly by *The Times* and BBC Radio Four's PM programme, after its launch for 1990 (Our Environment Correspondent writes).

Sir Crispin Tickell, the British Ambassador to the United Nations, who is thought to have played a key part in Mrs Thatcher's conversion to environmental concern, joined with Dr Richard Leakey, the director of the Kenya Wildlife

Service who is leading the fight against ivory poachers, in praising the award for focusing on the activities of

ordinary people. "Although environmental issues are global in scope, they also affect every individual," Sir Crispin, one of the award judges, said.

"I welcome a competition which brings home to ordinary people the problems of the environment and the responsibilities which we all carry."

Dr Leakey, who is to present the award on May 9 at Broadchurch House, said: "It is ordinary people that have the future of the environment more in their hands than any-

Three boys burnt in explosion

Police are waiting to interview three teenagers who suffered serious burns when there was an explosion in their car. Neil Coleman, aged 17, of Great Cheverell, Ross Whiteside, aged 18, of Market Lavington, and Ian Walters, aged 15, of Odstock, all Wiltshire, were sitting on Salisbury Plain when the explosion happened.

Police believe a prank may have gone wrong. They think the boys sprayed an aerosol in the car and then lit a cigarette when the car was full of inflammable gases.

Arrest order

A warrant for the arrest of a Finnish captain who was allegedly drunk when his ship smashed on to rocks was issued at Truro Crown Court. Kalervo Puskala, aged 44, did not turn up to face a charge of failing to protect people on his ship from death or serious injury because he was drunk.

Citizens' radio

A scheme to help handicapped people increase their social life through Citizens' Band radio has been launched in Somerset. The Rural Development Commission paid half the £2,800 needed for 15 sets.

Exotic catch

Devon and Cornwall fishermen are netting giant Asian prawns which have swum from French fish farms and established colonies across the Channel.

Hiker death

Police are investigating the death of a hiker, aged about 40, whose body was discovered in woodland at Wark Forest, Northumberland, up to a year after he died.

Cocaine find

Police are trying to discover how £100,000 of cocaine was washed up on a beach at Borth, Dyfed.

National Curriculum policy Plea to get classics back on timetable

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Classicists called on the Government yesterday to use its planned relaxation of the National Curriculum to allow Latin and Greek back on to the state school timetable.

Mr John MacGregor, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has said that pupils would be allowed to opt out of examination courses in some of the 10 National Curriculum subjects in their last two years at school.

The Co-ordinating Committee for the Classics, which represents school and university classicists, said the change in curriculum rules should be extended to allow Latin and Greek to be taught again.

Dr Peter Jones, senior lecturer in Classics at Newcastle University, urged Mr MacGregor to follow the lead given by the Scottish Office, which has relaxed rules on the languages which secondary schools may teach.

Scottish children can now study any foreign language, including Latin and Greek, as their compulsory foreign language under their version of the National Curriculum.

Dr Jones said his organization was not suggesting that Latin and Greek should supplant French and German as the main foreign languages learned by pupils. "No one will make Latin their first and only language. But it would put Latin and Greek back within the school curriculum."

The National Curriculum working party on modern language teaching is due to report before Easter and the classicists hope it will endorse the teaching of Latin as an aid to learning modern languages.

Teachers were urged yesterday to become involved in efforts to combat a growing teenage craze of spray-painting graffiti on trains and buses

which has already claimed the lives of two children.

The Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association said teachers were increasingly concerned about the risks run by thousands of children indulging in "tagging".

Writing in the association's journal, Mr Paul Blum, head of careers at the Cardinal Vaughan School, Kensington, west London, said that "tagging" had replaced scribbling on school desks and walls as the favourite form of vandalism for many pupils.

Teenagers regularly played truant to join gangs spraying their initials and other symbols, often on to moving trains and vehicles, using paint stolen in shoplifting raids.

Teachers who suspected that their pupils were involved in organized "tagging" should warn them and their parents of the dangers.

London Regional Transport said two youngsters had died because of "tagging" and three more through "surfing" - riding outside moving trains. British Rail said: "We have taken a stiff line in punishing offenders."

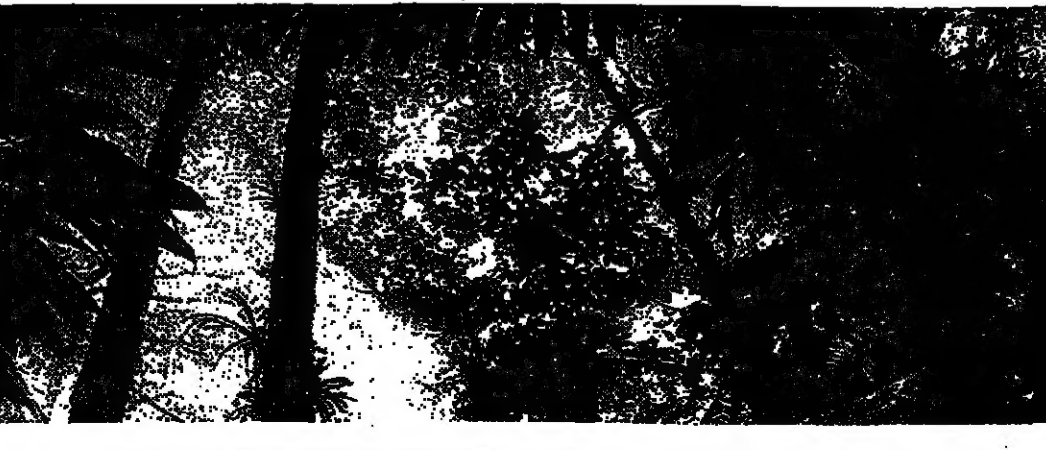
The Department of Education and Science said the Government was making £2.3 million available to help schools deal with the problem of truancy.

Leading article, page 13



WWF has bought part of the international debt of developing countries to help reduce the devastation of tropical forests.

WE'RE HELPING GOVERNMENTS CONVERT PAPER BACK INTO WOOD.



Massive debt. WWF were one of the first to recognise this as the major obstacle stopping third world countries protecting their natural resources.

In response, WWF organised "Debt for Nature Swaps". This is a process by which we buy, at a substantial discount, part of the outstanding debt of developing countries like Ecuador, Costa Rica, Zambia and Madagascar, or even arrange to write it off.

In return, the Government of that country agrees to help fund and implement more conservation projects.

We also help in other ways. By working with 21 Governments and many of the world's Aid Agencies, we've set up ambitious schemes to preserve as much of the world's tropical forests as we can.

Many of these projects help local people manage the forest in new ways that benefit both themselves and the environment.

Already WWF's campaign to save one of Africa's oldest remaining rainforests, in Cameroon, is proving highly successful. The harvesting of food, medicine and the development of new industries are just some of the many projects already underway.

WWF's policy is to work with and influence the people who can bring about positive change, worldwide. Our approach has already proven successful, but we urgently need your support to continue.

You can help WWF by sending in a donation to help rainforests worldwide.

YES, I want to help WWF make a world of difference. I am over 18. I enclose my gift of £100 ☐ £50 ☐ £25 ☐ £15 ☐ Other £

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French property boom British sales treble to 12,000

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

Sales of French properties to British buyers trebled to 12,000 last year, according to estate agents, who predict that they could reach up to 100,000 by 1993.

Increasing sales in the north, particularly in Normandy, the Pays de la Loire and Brittany, and the Loire valley, are overtaking the steady interest in central and southern France, the agents said. Property sales to British buyers, which numbered about 2,000 in 1987, could top 20,000 this year.

To cope with and encourage the demand, dozens of firms have sprung up in the past year or so to act as agents, legal consultants and searchers.

Miss Louise Wheatcroft, of Miss Louise Wheatcroft, which was established a year ago,

said: "Most of the interest at the moment is in Normandy and the north of France, and a lot of people are going over to look at properties."

She said many had largely decided to buy before they arrived. While some were looking for a chateau, most were aiming to pay less than £40,000 for a property in reasonable condition. Others hoped to pick up something for about £20,000 and restore it.

"We have on our books an old windmill, without its sails, in a field, for £8,000. That must be a bargain, even with the cost of renovation," she said.

Miss Wheatcroft rejected reports of local hostility against the British invasion. "The French are happy to see people coming in and buying

old and crumbling properties and repairing them. There is the isolated case which has led to reports of hostility, such as the Mayor of Honfleur, who takes the view that if the British buy they should come to live there," she said.

"If they only want to spend two weeks a year in a good property, denying it to anyone else, he does not want them."

Miss Wheatcroft said that contrary to what some other agencies had implied, prices had not rocketed throughout Normandy in the past year.

"It is still possible to find beautiful period properties in all price ranges, including the most popular price bracket of £10,000-£40,000 in the Orne, Seine Normande, Perche, Calvados and Manche regions of Normandy," she said.

CHANGING FACE OF SOUTH AFRICA

Liberalism stirs in land of leading ANC families

From R.W. Johnson
Umtata, Transkei

After his release from prison, Mr Nelson Mandela is losing no time in moving to Soweto, the hub of black political life in South Africa.

Before long, however, it is safe to predict that his thoughts will wander back to his beloved childhood home, Qunu, in Transkei.

Throughout his years in jail, Mr Mandela kept up his payment of rates on a residential and garden plot in Qunu and wrote of his desire "to spend my last days there."

Moreover, Transkei — for all that it is a nominally independent black homeland — could well have a decisive weight in settling South Africa's political future, for it is the great heartland of the African National Congress.

Not only the Mandelas but many of the other leading ANC families, such as the Sisulus, Tamboes and Mbekis, come from here and Transkei's nearly four million Xhosa people will provide the ANC with its most solid and reliable base of support.

Already Transkei is in a fever of ANC rallies and meetings as people await a return which will be as tumultuous and

heartrending as anything Soweto can offer Mr Mandela.

Meanwhile, Major-General Bantu Holomisa, the military ruler of Transkei since a coup in 1987, has emerged as one of the most intriguing new actors on the South African political scene. The general has already made it clear that he sees himself playing a role in negotiations on South Africa's future — talks at which he could be a wild card of some importance.

Political speculation about General Holomisa has grown ever since he allowed the funeral of Chief Dalindyebo last year to become a virtual ANC rally and lifted banning orders on all political movements, including the ANC.

However, General Holomisa, a relaxed and engaging man, has had, he says, no direct contact with Mr Mandela, has no particular bias towards the ANC and no wish at all for a political career.

"Politics is a dirty game — means taking money from businessmen and doing favours for them. Once we have cleaned up the mess in Transkei, I will go back to soldiering. There are lots of courses I want to do, some in Britain for example. Feeling that I would like to run the Department of Sport." For the

general is a keen tennis, football, rugby and cricket player.

He took power on an anti-corruption ticket and his huge popularity derives from the energetic spirit in which he is carrying out his task. The placemen imposed as chiefs under the regime of the Matanzima brothers have been booted out, and, to enormous popular satisfaction, the old traditional chiefs reappointed.

George Matanzima, the former Prime Minister, sentenced to jail for wholesale corruption, is now collaborating happily with an anti-corruption inquiry in return for a remission of sentence.

The general has also rooted out civil service corruption and paid for a large increase in civil service salaries by liberalizing Transkei's property and investment regime.

The fruit of this wholehearted embrace of free enterprise has been a large inflow of white investment, producing a building boom in Umtata. The result is that Umtata after the dark, oppressive years of the Matanzima's now enjoys a cheerful and liberal atmosphere.

One of the few people with whom the general is not popular is Transkei's former President, Mr Kaiser

Matanzima, who, together with his Transkei Independence Party, rails against the general and all his works.

"I see him in the street," says the general, "and say 'Hi', but he is just insulting to me, even though I pay him his salary as Paramount Chief at the end of each month. I must say, he's pushing his luck at times too far."

Asked whether the former President might find himself in jail or his salary stopped, the general replies, shocked: "Good heavens, no."

He seems really to be that great African rarity, a genuine liberal.

Spurred by reports that General Holomisa was about to lift Transkei's ban on the ANC and the Pan Africanist Congress, President de Klerk flew to Umtata on January 11. "He tried to treat us," the general says, "like naughty little boys."

Mr de Klerk, he says, strongly advised him against holding a referendum on whether Transkei should be re-integrated into South Africa, and also warned against pushing ahead too fast with his liberalization programme.

The South African President's aim, General Holomisa believes, was to "mentally destabilize us", for Mr de

Klerk's visit was followed up by heavy hints from Pretoria of financial pressure against Transkei.

The general was, therefore, amazed when Mr de Klerk himself went even further with his reforms on February 2. "Either he wanted to stop us being first with these measures, so as to have a greater media impact and avoid seeming to follow us," says General Holomisa, "or else an awful lot changed between January 11 and February 2. I think a lot of things changed."

Emboldened by this turn of events, the general now allows completely free political activity within Transkei and is pressing ahead with his reforms.

He says he has no interest in joining any party himself and that he is just as protective of the PAC's rights as of the ANC's.

"Mr Makwetla, the president of the Pan Africanist movement, now lives here and he is just as welcome as Mr Mandela," he insists.

Thus far, intense political competition is proceeding peacefully, but there is no doubt that the ANC is far ahead of PAC. The ANC is holding meetings in even the smallest country towns. Everywhere one sees groups of excited youths marching

and dancing along roads. There is evidence of Communist Party activity too.

Popular sentiment is overwhelmingly in favour of Transkei re-joining South Africa. General Holomisa shares this view but is cautious about forecasting a referendum result.

"The Transkei has many faces", he says.

However, he does feel strongly that the homelands question has to be settled before negotiations get under way. "After all, we have to know which homeland peoples are going to vote for a constituent assembly," he points out.

In fact, all the homeland leaders, says President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana, have announced they want reintegration, but Mr Mangope wants to secede from South Africa and join Botswana.

But most of the other homelands are ruled in autocratic style, so General Holomisa's presumption of democratic referendums everywhere is likely to create embarrassment in some quarters.

The general may be no politician but one can see why he is popular and why his open, irreverent spirit would lighten any negotiation process.

Thatcher aims to bolster De Klerk against backlash

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Government is prepared to lift non-binding sanctions against South Africa progressively as part of efforts to bolster the position of President de Klerk and prevent a white backlash sweeping him from power.

Mrs Thatcher is willing to act unilaterally in removing a number of the voluntary sanctions in response to steady progress being made in South Africa and to demonstrate the West's support for President de Klerk's initiative.

The Prime Minister and her senior colleagues are anxious that the South African President be given support and encouragement particularly as he comes under pressure from his own white community.

As Whitehall made clear last night that the Prime Minister would not hesitate to lift some voluntary sanctions unilaterally, a Foreign Office minister and senior Tory backbenchers warned of the danger of a white backlash against the South African Government unless the international community responded favourably.

Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, surprised MPs by saying that if nothing was done to support those wishing to negotiate, the British Government would be blamed "when the white backlash sweeps De Klerk away".

He said he spoke with urgency because President de Klerk was under most pressure from his own constituency and a signal should be sent to him about the benefits,

to him and his constituency, of continuing down the road of peace and dialogue.

With Labour accusing the Prime Minister of being isolated at the United Nations and in the Commonwealth, sources made clear that she did not "have two hoes" about being in a minority of one as long as she was right.

The Government will drop a ban on new investment in South Africa even without the agreement of the European Community and Commonwealth. Britain has already dropped another — the discouragement of cultural, academic and scientific contacts.

Whitehall said last night that, as steady progress was made in South Africa, restrictions would be eased. Mrs Thatcher is determined to fulfil her promise that Britain would support President de Klerk if he embarked on reform. The Prime Minister was said not to be surprised at Mr Mandela's support for sanctions and the armed struggle because they were central points of the ANC's programme of which Mr Mandela was a member.

But she was said to believe that armed struggle was irrelevant when there was an offer of negotiations and she therefore hoped there would be no more talk of the armed struggle.

Despite Mr Mandela's support for the armed struggle, Whitehall made clear that the Prime Minister would be issuing an unconditional invitation to him to visit Britain.

● BRUSSELS: Opposition

hardened yesterday against the Government's desire to soften EC sanctions on Pretoria (Peter Gifford writes). Statements came almost simultaneously from the African National Congress, the Organization of African Unity and the European Commission calling for sanctions to remain firmly in place until apartheid is abolished.

Señor Manuel Marín, the EC's Development Commissioner, pronounced himself "completely in favour of maintaining sanctions". These are a ban on trading in iron and steel and krugerrands, a freeze on military and scientific co-operation and voluntary curbs on fresh investment.

● SYDNEY: The Australian Government has said Mr Mandela's release is not a cue to ease economic sanctions (Robert Cockburn writes). In Canberra yesterday, Senator Gareth Evans, the Foreign Minister, said: "The point about sanctions policy is to secure the abolition of apartheid. When that process is well and truly under way, then will be the time to reconsider."

● HARARE: President Mugabe of Zimbabwe criticized Mrs Thatcher yesterday for her "too hasty embrace" of President de Klerk (Jan Raath writes). "We remain sparing of our praise (for Mr de Klerk) because the issue that the people of South Africa have been fighting for has been the creation of a political order which denies no one his rights".

Mandela holds the future



Mr Nelson Mandela cradling Bambata, his youngest grandchild, in his arms while waiting to board the flight from Cape Town taking him and his family back to Soweto yesterday.

Markets jittery on commitment to state control

From Ray Kennedy, Johannesburg

Foreign investors began selling on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange yesterday as they weighed up Mr Nelson Mandela's call for intensified international economic pressure on the South African Government and his commitment to nationalize key sectors such as mines and banks under a black-dominated Government. Gold and platinum stocks took the brunt of the selling wave, which was worsened by a weaker gold bullion price in Europe.

However, a broker said foreign investors had been buying South African stocks for some time. "They have now topped up and at the moment are a bit wary about the future," he added.

Although the initial stock-market reaction is likely to prove largely artificial, with foreign investors flocking back when prices are right, longer-term economic prospects for South Africa remain cloudy.

President de Klerk's announcement, on February 2, lifting bans on the African National Congress, the South African Communist Party and other outlawed organizations bolstered the country's foreign exchange reserves by a billion rands (£238 million) within a week. But Dr Chris Stals, Governor of the Reserve Bank, has cautioned that there was mainly "hot money" from speculative investors expecting an appreciation in the exchange rate.

Since 1985, when President Botha abandoned apartheid reforms with his "Rubicon" speech, South Africa has been starved of foreign capital. The flight of foreign business, however, began some time before

with the continuation, on a national basis, of black rioting. It has been calculated by Trustbank, one of South Africa's biggest commercial banks, that the country has lost 40 billion rands in the past five years, in lost loans, direct investment, and trade sanctions aimed mainly at exports of coal, iron and steel, and fruit.

More serious has been the loss of an estimated 500,000 jobs. Most of the country's vast army of unemployed is black, but many blue-collar whites have also suffered, with mortgage rates spiralling to 21 per cent and inflation running at more than 15 per cent.

The far-right Conservative Party, capitalizing on all this, saw its parliamentary representation nearly double in last September's general election.

Foreign ministers of the European Community meet in Dublin next week and Britain is expected to urge lifting the voluntary ban on new investment as a reaction to the reforms announced by Mr de Klerk.

Britain remains the largest investor in South Africa, despite public pressure on companies operating there.

The largest withdrawal has been by American firms — about half of those operating there in 1984 are not now. Many of them — including General Motors, Ford, IBM and Coca-Cola — have licensed South African companies to sell or make their products, a tactic seen by anti-apartheid activists as a cynical exercise to ensure that the profits still flow back to the source of production.

Apathy marks white response

From Nicholas Beeston, Johannesburg

The old Africa hands say they have seen it all before.

Black rule in post-colonial Africa has not worked and South Africa, the last bastion of white authority, is no exception.

"I packed my bags in Rhodesia when it became independent and I've never been back," said a Norwegian expatriate returning to his refrigeration business in Cape Town as South African history was being made with the release of Mr Nelson Mandela.

The response was hardly surprising from someone who has spent 49 years working

attitude to his trade. Among young whites, student activists have for years been at the forefront in the call for change, but some of their less politically aware contemporaries appear just as apathetic as their counterparts the world over.

A talk-show host on a local radio station fielding calls from white South African suburban housewives yesterday must have been surprised by the response to his phone-in on the Mandela release. Instead of a debate about the future of the country, he was overwhelmed by callers complaining that the live television coverage of Mr Mandela's release was patchy and that for long periods viewers were served up

There was no mention of his speech, reaffirming the ANC's policy of armed struggle — only the suggestion from callers that they had wasted their Sunday afternoon.

Even supporters at a neo-Nazi rally on Saturday afternoon, vowing violent revenge against President de Klerk for his act of treason against the Afrikaner nation, became hopelessly sidetracked from their main message by bouts of anti-Semitism and outdated conspiracy theories about the communist takeover of the Christian world.

The startling revelation about the snatches of popular reaction is that by and large white South Africans appear to accept the inevitability of black rule and, publicly, have offered no cohesive resistance to the changes which are about to affect their lives.

The prisoners left behind amid the euphoria

Johannesburg (Reuters) — The anti-apartheid movement's rallying cry of "Release Nelson Mandela" has paid off, but civil rights lawyers say that 14 prisoners remain in South African jails, serving life sentences for what they regard as political crimes.

They estimate that up to 3,300 other political prisoners may be behind bars in comparative obscurity, predominantly in the nominally self-governing homelands.

When President de Klerk unbanned the African National Congress and other dissident groups on February 2, he promised to free all political prisoners jailed merely because they belonged to prohibited organizations.

Civil rights lawyers say that there are 77 such prisoners.

But many more were convicted

for murder, arson and terrorism which some see as politically motivated. These prisoners were excluded from the President's amnesty, although government ministers have said that their release could be negotiated.

"The problem is that Mandela has become so big that all other ANC personalities shrink in comparison," one leading activist said.

He did not want to be identified, saying that other activists would perceive him as being "anti-Mandela".

Mr Mandela and the ANC have pledged themselves to fight for the release of all political prisoners: "I reiterate our call for... the freeing of all, and not only some, political prisoners," Mr Mandela said in his first public speech in Cape Town on Sunday. One of the 14 serving life

imprisonment for offences that sent Mr Mandela to jail is Anthony Xaba, aged 56. He has spent 25 years in prison.

A member of the ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), he was convicted of terrorism and conspiracy to overthrow white rule by violence and sentenced to life in jail.

"Why not Viva Xaba, Viva Xaba, and only Viva Mandela, Viva Mandela," a member of Xaba's family asked.

Mr Dali Mphofu, spokesman for the Release Mandela Campaign, said that the group had used Mr Mandela's name for its symbolic value because the ANC veteran and Umkhonto we Sizwe co-founder was known internationally.

He said: "The campaign itself will continue until the very last political

prisoner is freed." Others who have served between 15 and 25 years of life terms are Elphas Mdlalose, aged 65, Msimi Miyiwa, aged 65, and Vusumuzi Nene and David Moise, both over 50.

Mdlalose, a member of the ANC and its trade-union wing, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, was detained in 1963 and sentenced to 10 years. He was released in 1974 but 18 months later rearrested and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Miyiwa and Nene, fellow ANC members, have been in jail for 22 years and 15 years respectively.

In 1982 Joseph Nduli, Petrus Mashigo, Johanson Lubisi, Naphthali Manana and Johannes Shabangu were sentenced to life for offences including public violence, arson and murder. Sanna Twala, Linda Hlo-

phie, Daniel Mbokeane and Lizo Ngungwana were jailed for life in 1987 for similar offences, one of them entailing a "necklace" killing. In these killings, a petrol-filled tyre is placed around the neck of the victim and set alight.

Mr Kobie Coetsee, the Justice Minister, said last March that about 374 people were serving sentences for offences against state security.

The anti-apartheid Human Rights Commission said that Mr Coetsee's figure did not include about 3,300 political prisoners in the "homelands" — impoverished black mini-states covering 13 per cent of the country and created by Pretoria under apartheid.

The commission said it was impossible to give exact figures of detainees because the homelands were so fragmented.

Racist vandals' paint protest



Mr Tony Chandler, a workman, removing paint yesterday from the bronze bust of Mr Nelson Mandela in London. After the day that the best-known prisoner in the world gained his freedom, racist vandals struck overnight with white paint at the South Bank complex.

Press charmed by modesty

Continued from page 1

conferences, this being regarded as an affront to objectivity, but they did on this occasion. A spontaneous and prolonged burst of hand-clapping greeted Mr Mandela as he took his place at a long table covered with microphones in the shade of a baobab tree, and his pleasure was evident.

At ease in his unfamiliar surroundings (his ornate, hand-carved chair was a 17th-century masterpiece), he promptly apologized for having had to cancel a press conference on Sunday night, and paid tribute to the media, both local and international, for remembering him in his long ordeal.

"Throughout these difficult years in prison, the press have been a brick to us. I think it was originally the intention of the Government that we should be forgotten... it was

the press who never forgot us. We are therefore indebted to you," he said.

Confronted by a forest of television cameras, he never flinched beneath a barrage of political and personal questions, responding to each in measured and eloquent terms.

Occasionally he greeted a questioner whom he had never met, but whose name was familiar from endless reading of newspapers during his confinement, with a hearty hello. "You're in good shape, I thought you would be bigger and fatter," he told a local journalist.

He had been overwhelmed by the "breath-taking" enthusiasm of his reception, and astonished to see so many whites among the masses of blacks celebrating his release. South Africa was totally different from the country of his youth, and he wished to assure

whites they had nothing to fear from the black majority.

Asked whether there was any bitterness in him, he said: "It is not a nice feeling for a man to see his family struggling without security, without the dignity of the head of the family around, but despite the hard times we had in prison there have been men who do everything to try and make you as happy as possible. That has wiped out any bitterness which a man could have."

Turning aside from politics, Mr Mandela said he longed to visit his birthplace in Transkei "to see the little stones on which I played as a child, the little rivers where I swam".

The humanity and lyricism of the man, who might easily have emerged a bitter and spiteful victim of injustice, impressed his most sceptical listeners. By the time he left, he had won our admiration.

هكذا من الأمل

Sharon quits in gamble to wrest power from Shamir

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem

Mr Ariel "Arik" Sharon, who, as a brilliant general, crossed the Suez Canal in the 1973 Middle East War to earn the title "the Israeli Patton", took the biggest gamble of his political career yesterday by resigning from the Israeli coalition Government.

This move was an attempt to prevent Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister, from embarking on the "national disaster" of peace talks with the Palestinians. His dramatic move was seen as an attempt for future power if the Government collapses, with Mr Sharon seeking a mandate to end the *intifada* by severe methods.

Mr Sharon, aged 61, opened a highly charged session of the Likud party central committee, of which he is chairman, by accusing the Shamir Government of "allowing Palestinian terror to run wild" and of taking Israel down a diplomatic path which could lead, in the West Bank and Gaza, only to a Palestinian state intent on the destruction of its Jewish neighbour.

Mr Sharon, a larger-than-life figure, with a passionate following on the Israeli right wing, said he was resigning his post as Trade and Industry Minister but would keep his position as Likud party chairman and his post as an MP. This would leave him free to "fight for what I believe in".

Mr Sharon's bombshell is designed to put pressure on Mr Shamir, aged 74—who has headed the uneasy coalition between Likud and Labour since December 1988—to risk Washington's anger and reject a US-sponsored plan for the first Israeli-Palestinian talks, to be held in Cairo.

The talks would discuss Mr Shamir's own proposal for elections in the occupied territories, leading to limited Arab self-rule to defuse the *intifada*.

But Mr Sharon said the talks would be the thin edge of a wedge leading to a state of Palestine under the domination of the "terrorist Palestine Liberation Organization".

Mr Shamir has ruled out talks with the PLO, and, like Mr Sharon, is opposed to Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza, which he regards as part of Greater Israel. But Mr Shamir has

gone along with proposals for a US-Israeli-Egyptian conference on direct Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. This has caused mounting dismay on the right, which exploded yesterday in a crisis which threatens to split Likud.

Mr Sharon, a white-haired man of imposing bulk, with an outspoken manner which some say verges on the demagogic, had made increasingly sharp personal attacks on Mr Shamir and on those loyal to him, such as Mr Moshe Arens, the Foreign Minister, whom he accused of evading military service in the 1948 war of independence.

Yesterday, Mr Sharon stunned delegates by announcing he had sent a letter of resignation to Mr Shamir. He declared: "Vital national principles are at stake. Under our very noses, Palestinian terror is allowed to run wild in the land of Israel, causing heavy loss of innocent life, both Jewish and Arab."

Mr Sharon, who has the support of several senior Likud ministers, including Mr David Levy, the Deputy Prime Minister, is a fierce critic of Israel's failure to suppress the *intifada*, now in its third year.

He used the attack by Arab extremists on Israeli tourists in Egypt just over a week ago, in which 10 people lost their lives, to declare that all Palestinians were terrorists, including those who professed moderation.

"I have come to the conclusion that I am no longer able to remain in the Government and wait until it falls," Mr Sharon said.

He charged that Mr Shamir had already made concessions to the PLO by secretly agreeing that Palestinians who had been deported from the occupied territories and leading east Jerusalem Arabs could form part of the proposed Palestinian negotiating team.

Before the conference ended in disarray, Mr Shamir agreed with the right that east Jerusalem Arabs should not be part of any Palestinian delegation, but he made no mention of deportees.

He said that he would respond to Mr Sharon's decision when he received his letter of resignation.

Indian right protests at alleged Pakistani role in Kashmir violence

Bhutto silent as options run out

From Christopher Thomas, Muzaffarabad



A stick-wielding member of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party shouting anti-Islamabad slogans in Delhi yesterday, outside the Pakistan High Commission, over the Kashmir issue.

Kashmiris in Pakistan raised a din of anti-Indian protest in their small, run-down "capital" of Muzaffarabad yesterday — marching, chanting and waving black flags as they pledged another suicidal violation of the Kashmir ceasefire line.

Their protest over the killing of up to 11 young men by Indian forces on the boundary on Sunday was in marked contrast to the silence observed by the Pakistan Government.

The low-key official response in Islamabad was highly significant, since it showed the extent of the Government's determination to avoid raising the confrontation with India to a war pitch.

The Foreign Office said only that the Indian High Commissioner had been informed of Pakistan's "deep shock" at the killing of unarmed civilians.

It was the second serious encounter across the Kashmiri line of control in a week. Even so, Pakistan has failed completely to stir international interest in the conflict and has therefore decided against taking its case to the United Nations Security Council.

If it did, the Soviet Union has made it clear that it would

veto any anti-Indian resolution. China has said it would not be interested in backing a UN move, as Kashmiri separatists are demanding a slice of Chinese territory that supposedly belonged to ancient Kashmir.

To complete this unpromising international scenario, other Islamic countries said they did not want to be associated with a separatist cause backed so fervently by Iran, which paints the Kashmir affair in terms of a global Islamic reawakening.

Miss Benazir Bhutto, the Prime Minister, is without any influential political options. Opposition parties accuse her of being soft on India — one of the most damning indictments that can be levelled at a Pakistani leader.

The press in both Pakistan and India has fallen into a frenzy of jingoism and misreporting. Day after day, Indian newspapers and wire services are referring to the infiltration of "hard-core Pakistani subversives" into the Kashmir Valley.

There is not a shred of firm evidence to support allegations of officially sanctioned training camps for guerrillas inside Pakistan.

Liberians flee army abuses

Washington (AFP) — US officials say more than 100,000 Liberians have fled to neighbouring West African countries in recent weeks to escape an army crackdown against a Libyan-backed rebellion.

The behaviour of the Army has been very disturbing, said Mr Andrew Natsios, director of the US office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.

Cabinet losses

Athens — The three parties supporting the Greek Government of Professor Xenophon Zolotas, the Prime Minister, have pulled their ministers out of his Cabinet.

Reporter held

Kampala (Reuters) — The Ugandan Government has detained a third journalist alleged to have insulted President Kaunda of Zambia at a press conference.

Court denial

Kota Kinabalu (Reuters) — Mr Jeffrey Kitingan, brother of the Chief Minister of Sabah, the only Christian-controlled Malaysian state, pleaded not guilty to corruption charges.

Bomb damage

Lisbon (Reuters) — A bomb set off by Angolan UNITA rebels cut the water pipeline to Luanda, the capital.

FRONT PAGE NEWS FOR REGALIAN 50/50 HOME PURCHASE PLAN

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Gossip columnist comes up Trumps

From Charles Bremner, New York

Barely had Mr John Gotti, Mafia superstar, been acquitted and accorded his weekend of media glory than New York's tabloids and chat-shows switched into overdrive for another of those psychodramas the city so loves — the matrimonial parting of the ways of Donald and Ivana Trump, otherwise known as the "Divorce of the Century".

Nudged by a gossip columnist's exclusive report, Mr Donald Trump, the billionaire developer who most personified the unabashed excesses of Manhattan in the 1980s, announced yesterday that he is leaving his glamorous wife and business collaborator.

As he flew back from Japan, staff began moving his belongings from the couple's vast marble and onyx-laden penthouse atop Trump Tower, the Fifth Avenue skyscraper that is unequalled for glitz.

Mr Trump, who prides himself as the greatest "deal-maker", installed the flat as an exercise in one-upmanship against Mr Adnan Khashoggi, the Saudi financier who had installed a veritable palace in his Olympic Tower five blocks down the road.

"War of the Trumps", shrieked the headlines as lawyers were wheeled out on television to speculate over the legal ramifications should the couple fight over the finances of the Trump company, which includes the Plaza Hotel and a *Dynasty*-sized

collection of skyscrapers, hotels and casinos stretching from New York to Florida.

"The impending split is shaking the dynamic, magnetic and highly publicized Trump empire to its foundations," confided Miss Liz Smith, the doyenne of gossip writers who published the exclusive report.

Yesterday, however, Mr Trump's men hit back at suggestions that Mrs Trump, a former Czechoslovak Olympic skier and one of the most glamorous blondes on the American celebrity scene, was entitled to more than her allotment under a pre-nuptial agreement that the couple renegotiated three times during their 12 years of marriage.

The agreement gives Mrs Trump, aged 41, about \$25 million (£15 million) plus the couple's Connecticut estate. That leaves everything else, including the world's biggest motor yacht and an airline, to Mr Trump, who is 43. He also plans to keep charge of the three children.

Though Mrs Trump had worked full-time for her husband, as chief decorator, casino director in Atlantic City and, most recently, manager of the Plaza, she was not a partner, said a spokesman. "She was just a figurehead in Atlantic City... The Liz Smith article was clearly planted by sources close to Ivana, most likely her attorneys, because of the gross inaccuracies."

Mr Trump built his empire in the 1980s and used it to launch his creed of flamboyant ostentation, an approach that soon earned him a reputation as the biggest ego in America and "the man with the Midas fist".

It was well known, for example, that Mrs Trump's "salary" consisted of \$1 — plus all the dresses she wanted.

Litigation is considered likely because of Mr Trump's taste for legal battles. The 10 legal firms that serve his companies are nearly constantly at work suing adversaries on behalf of the man who says: "I love to have enemies. I fight my enemies. I like beating my enemies to the ground."



Mrs Trump: \$1 "salary" and all the dresses she wanted.

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German reunification talks begin in Bonn

UK demands guarantee on Poland's boundaries

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor, and Ian Murray, Bonn

Britain is pressing, as part of an agreement on German reunification between the Four Powers and the two Germanies, for a guarantee that Poland's borders will not be changed.

The aim is to ensure that a reunited Germany will not at some future point seek reunification with former German territory which was transferred to Poland at the end of the Second World War.

Poland and the Soviet Union have always feared that the Oder-Neisse line, which became East Germany's eastern border as part of the post-war settlement, would be challenged if the two Germanies achieved unity.

The first real reunification negotiations begin in Bonn today when Herr Hans Modrow, the interim East German Prime Minister, arrives for two days of talks which will concentrate on speedy ways of introducing the Deutschmark as the common currency of both the Germanies.

Herr Modrow, who can expect to remain in power only until the East German election on March 18, comes cap in hand to Bonn. Just more than two months ago he took over the Government of a country he believed had the strongest economy in the socialist bloc, speaking firmly of creating a strong socialist alternative Germany and saying

that he believed a purged communist party would have an important say in its future.

Now he is struggling to stave off state bankruptcy by surrendering sovereignty over his country's currency, in effect handing over the country itself to the Bundesbank; clearly political unity cannot be far behind.

Herr Modrow has already accepted that reunification will go ahead on terms dictated by Herr Helmut Kohl, the West German Chancellor.

This means he is not insisting on neutrality as the price of unity. Without the authority of being an elected leader, and without any financial basis to bargain with, he has virtually no negotiating authority.

Just how serious the East German economic situation is remains questionable. With money markets estimating that the national "takeover bid" will prove expensive, the Deutschmark yesterday weakened against most important world currencies. It was down a penny against the dollar to DM1.67 and down from DM2.82 to DM2.84 against the pound.

West German sources are largely responsible for creating the gloomy economic picture. A very senior official last week said bankruptcy was only days away, which undoubtedly helped persuade President Gorbachev at the weekend to agree that unity was some-

thing for the Germans to agree between themselves.

Yesterday's round-table discussions in East Berlin instructed Herr Modrow not to agree to anything on monetary union which would not benefit the East German population. But the West German Government is not ready to have terms dictated to it and is confident that Herr Modrow will basically have to do as he is told.

The British view that guarantees are required against future German territorial claims emerged yesterday when Mrs Thatcher held talks at Downing Street with Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, the Polish Prime Minister.

She said afterwards that they had discussed German reunification and the need for it to be carried out in a way which would preserve security and stability in Europe. She added: "In particular, the frontiers of Poland must be guaranteed by treaty."

Her demand cuts across the West German position, which is that while Bonn makes no claim to the German part of Poland, the question cannot be settled until after reunification is achieved.

● MOSCOW: The Kremlin has described as one-sided the interpretation placed on the weekend meeting between Mr Gorbachev and Herr Kohl (Mary Dejevsky writes). Mr Gennadi Gerasimov, the For-

eign Ministry spokesman, said yesterday that, while Mr Gorbachev had indeed said that German reunification was a matter for the Germans to decide, he had also emphasized that reunification should be within the framework of the Helsinki process and with due account for the security interests of all sides, including the Soviet Union and the Germanies' neighbours.

Mr Gerasimov's statement suggested a degree of unhappiness in the Soviet leadership with the widely held view that Moscow had removed all obstacles to German reunification. It also implied criticism of Herr Kohl for announcing so soon after his meeting that Mr Gorbachev had acquiesced in the desire of Germans for unity and indicated that Mr Gorbachev's policy may not yet have the full approval of the Soviet leadership.

Soviet and West German accounts of the Kohl-Gorbachev meeting have consistently differed in sequence, with Moscow placing the European and security aspects first, and West German versions stressing the responsibility of Germans for the fate of Germany.

There has, however, been no disagreement on the words used by Mr Gorbachev, which amount to *carte blanche* for reunification.

Leading article, page 13



Mrs Thatcher welcoming Mr Mazowiecki, Poland's Prime Minister, to No 10 yesterday.

East Germans want to block Kohl rush to currency union

From Michael Blayon, Brussels, and Anne McElvoy, East Berlin

Thirteen groups represented at the East German round-table talks urged Herr Hans Modrow, the Prime Minister, yesterday, not to accept currency union proposals put by West Germany when he meets Herr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, in Bonn today.

The development emerged as Herr Theo Waigel, the West German Finance Minister, was assuring his European Community counterparts in Brussels that Bonn's offer of immediate currency union would not lessen its commitment to full European economic and monetary union in the timetable already agreed.

The East German round-table members want a more gradual approach to prevent an immediate

rise in inflation and unemployment which, they say, can only exacerbate instability in the country after the March 18 election.

With pressure growing on East Berlin to agree to Herr Kohl's suggestion of immediate negotiations on currency union, many East Germans fear that their savings will be at risk and that the reform will cause many redundancies as businesses find themselves unable to compete with their Western rivals.

Herr Wolfgang Ullmann, of the centre-right Democracy Now group, attacked the rumours spread by government circles in Bonn last week that East Germany was on the brink of insolvency.

The rumour, which was denied by the East German Government, has caused a sudden chill in the

climate of relations with West Germany. The Government spokesman said that East Berlin had complained formally to Bonn yesterday.

There was also a spate of attacks on Herr Kohl, who appeared rather too triumphant on his return from talks with President Gorbachev even for those East German politicians who usually sympathize with him. Herr Konrad Weiss, also of Democracy Now, said that Herr Kohl was increasingly acting in the interests of his own party by speeding up unification plans by the week.

In Brussels Herr Waigel insisted that the offer of currency union would open opportunities for investment in East Germany by all EC members, giving a significant spur to their own economic

growth. However, he admitted that currency union, with the Bundesbank taking charge of the East German monetary supply, would inevitably lead to a rise in unemployment in East Germany, the closure of factories and a need for complete reform of the social security system there.

He said something had to be done immediately because of the dramatic collapse of political and economic authority in East Germany, the growing stream of migrants from the East and the need to offer a "clear sign of hope" to East Germans. Bonn, he said, will insist on the introduction of a market economy, and irreversible commitment by East Germany to the legalization of private property, free markets, free trade unions and an opening to the world for private

investment capital. Other EC ministers, reflecting the general bemusement that has greeted the Bonn offer, expressed cautious support, but emphasized that nothing must be done to destabilize the Community structures.

With a hint of impatience at those countries insisting on gradual reunification, with extensive international consultations, Herr Waigel said that the situation was getting out of control.

Mr Arnold Reynolds, the Irish Finance Minister, who was presiding over the meeting, said EC ministers were ready at any time for a special discussion of the issue, and suggested calling an emergency meeting within the next few weeks.

M Jacques Delors, the Commission's President, said the German offer raised three questions: what

were the consequences for the Community's own structure and rules; what effect would it have on the European Monetary System and especially the exchange rate mechanism; and who would foot the bill.

He said the EC was ready to pay part of the cost.

Herr Waigel said the currency plan was a great challenge for the German economy, but the risks were calculable, as the East German economic output was only one-tenth of West Germany's. The offer was based on the Federal Republic's insistence on holding fast to a stable monetary policy.

"The Deutschmark will also remain, in the future, an anchor of stability for the European monetary system," he told fellow ministers.

Hard times put pressure on Swedish socialism

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

The Swedish Social Democratic Government faces a mounting crisis that could result in its being voted out of office later this week.

Paradoxically, this comes at a time when the newly liberated countries of Eastern Europe are flocking here to learn how the country reconciles socialist ideals with a free-market economy.

The crisis has come about over the Social Democrats' drastic package of deflationary measures, including a two-year freeze on wages, prices, rents and dividends, with the right to strike banned.

Mr Ingvar Carlsson, the Prime Minister, yesterday desperately sought allies among the other parties to help him

push through the measures, most severe in Sweden's post-war history. The Greens initially said they were prepared to support him in return for other measures aimed at protecting the environment.

However, their various leaders have since said that they would be unable to agree to the ban on strikes.

Mr Carlsson's main chance of saving his Government

● **The best hope Carlsson has is for an alliance with Communists** ●

rests with the Communists, traditional allies of the Social Democrats, though they too say they cannot support the strike ban.

The dilemma for the Com-

munist is that if Mr Carlsson's Government falls, provoking a new election, this would most probably result in a non-socialist coalition government, with a conservative prime minister.

According to a recent public opinion poll, conducted by the influential Sifo research institute, the Social Democrats would attract only 34 per cent of the vote. Even the support of the Communists (6.9 per cent) and the Greens (6 per cent) would not then be enough to give them a majority over Sweden's three non-socialist parties, whom Sifo showed as likely to poll 48.7 per cent.

The conservatives, with 25.5 per cent, would be likely to poll more than the two other non-socialist parties, Centre (10.1 per cent) and the Liberals (13.1 per cent), enabling them to demand the premiership for Mr Carl Bildt, their young leader, who wants radical economic changes.

The non-socialists, who are loosely aligned and given to squabbling amongst themselves, have maintained a united front against Mr Carlsson's package, though in the past the agrarian-based Centre Party has allied itself with the Social Democrats.

It would be unwise to take the present crisis too seriously. Given Sweden's long tradition for political consensus, such things have a habit of resolving themselves at the last minute and such is likely to be the case this week.

Mr Carlsson appeared to be pinning most of his hopes on the Communists, claimed by the Social Democratic evening newspaper *Aftonbladet* yesterday to be willing to drop the strike ban in return for their support for his other measures.

None the less, in the usually uneventful days of post-war Swedish political life, this is by far the worst crisis he has faced since coming to power

following the assassination of his predecessor, Olof Palme, in 1986 and winning re-election two years later.

It comes with the country still crippled by a conflict over a wage claim that has closed down its banks and with public-sector workers staging wildcat strikes that have disrupted public transport.

An official strike by 23,000 hospital workers will be called

● **The crisis follows a wage freeze and ban on the right to strike** ●

tomorrow in support of a pay claim, disrupting Sweden's otherwise ultra-efficient national health service.

Mr Carlsson denies he has been stampeded into action by

this rash of labour unrest and says the deflationary package is necessary to cool down an over-heated economy.

The present situation demonstrates the flaws in the so-called "Swedish model". This introduced a centralized wage-bargaining system guaranteeing industrial peace for most of the post-war period, laying the foundation for its prosperity and welfare state.

So long as productivity rose with wages, the Swedish model served its purpose. Today, in a far harsher economic climate, it seems to be dying, unable to adapt.

The principal flaw in its construction seems to be the reliance on deals between giant union and employer federations. When times were good this worked well.

Now, when there is less money available for pay rises and agreement cannot be reached, such centralization leads only to massive industrial action.

High-flyers test Ottawa air



Mr Douglas Hard, left, the Foreign Secretary, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German opposite number, going over the issues to be raised at the international "open skies" conference in Ottawa yesterday, among them surveillance flights over Nato territory.

Hungarian rights fight

From Philip Jacobson, Timisoara

The hated red star of communism may have been scissored out of every Romanian flag flying today, but at the tiny little Cemetery of the Heroes on the outskirts of the city which first rose against Ceausescu, it still occupies a place of honour.

Several dozen men of the Red Army are buried here, each beneath a granite headstone bearing the distinctive emblem and recording that these *Necunoscuti* - Unknown Soldiers - had died during the Soviet liberation of Romania that began in 1944.

By a quirk of fate, the 10 bodies that were never identified or claimed after last December's massacre of demonstrators in Timisoara lie nearby under a mound of faded flowers.

Wandering round the cemetery, I was approached by a nattily dressed elderly man, eager to practise his English. He was almost 80, a retired lawyer who was born and bred in Timisoara.

He had seen Romania move from a monarchy that had forfeited popular support with its playboy habits to a full-scale Communist takeover, with interludes of severely flawed democracy and a fascist dictatorship. And now, he noted, "we hear from journalists like you that Romanians are standing on the threshold of truly repre-

sentative governments. I really hope so, for the sake of my grandchildren at least. But you must allow someone with my background his own doubts."

Like many professional people in Timisoara, he was an ethnic Hungarian and proud of it. About two million people of Hungarian origin lived in the west of Romania, he told me, mostly in Transylvania, and they had suffered grievously during Ceausescu's drive to crush the Magyar cultural inheritance by destroying hundreds of their villages and deporting the populations to grim "resettlement centres" far away.

The stubborn resistance to this process by the Hungarian community in towns such as Timisoara, where links to the outside world were well established, had naturally enraged the dictator.

In his view, there are already signs that renewed attempts to assert what the ethnic Hungarians regard as basic democratic rights - children taught in their own language, re-establishment of a Hungarian university, separate radio and television programmes in Hungarian - are by no means welcomed by the National Salvation Front. As the lawyer observed with a sigh: "It is never easy to be a Hungarian in Romania."

Cellist defends 'Gulag' writer

Moscow (AP) - Mstislav Rostropovich, aged 62, the world-renowned cellist and conductor who now lives in the United States, said after his return to the Soviet Union after a 16-year absence yesterday that the Government should drop treason charges against Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, the exiled author, and apologize to him.

"It is ridiculous that a charge (of high treason) like this continues to loom over him," Rostropovich told a press conference a day after he returned to his homeland for concerts in Moscow and Leningrad.

Rostropovich and his wife, Galina Vishnevskaya, the singer who was part of the Bolshoi Theatre opera company for 30 years, were stripped of their citizenship in 1978, four years after they were hounded into leaving the Soviet Union for giving refuge to Solzhenitsyn.

In January their citizenship was restored by the Supreme Soviet and the edict which stripped them of all honours and medals was nullified.

Rostropovich, asked about the possible return of Solzhenitsyn, said the dissident writer hoped to come back to the Soviet Union, but not until censorship of his work was completely lifted.

"I think that Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn will come back, but the Soviet Union must apologize for the absurd charge of high treason."

He added that failure to repeal the charge, which carries the death penalty, ran counter to everything happening in the Soviet Union today.

Several prominent Soviet cultural figures who lost their citizenship under past regimes have had it restored and have subsequently returned to the Soviet Union, which the cultural thaw that prevails under President Gorbachev.

Solzhenitsyn, author of *The Gulag Archipelago*, which depicted the horrors of Stalin's prison camps, was formally charged with high treason in 1974, stripped of his citizenship and expelled from the country. Rostropovich and his wife followed him into exile a few months later.

Soviet officials have said that Solzhenitsyn's citizenship could be restored - but only if he formally requests it.

They said that they had not yet received any request from the author, who lives in the US state of Vermont.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Perrier investors flood the market

Paris - In nervous reaction to the great Perrier drought in the United States, French investors yesterday flooded the Bourse with orders to sell shares in the highly successful group (Philip Jacobson writes). Despite fresh assurances from Perrier that the problem - contamination of one supply line with tiny quantities of benzene - has been solved and that exports to the US will resume within weeks, the initial rush to get rid of stock led the share price to fall almost 12 per cent.

A Perrier spokesman said yesterday: "The hypothesis of human error being to blame for the presence of benzene in precisely 13 bottles in the US is increasingly likely."

The average French supermarket offers a good choice of waters and any attempt to sell Perrier at the "designer water" prices quoted in the US and Britain would probably see the product laughed off the shelves.

Pilots' damages bill

Sydney (Reuter) - Pilots who brought Australian flights to a virtual standstill during a bitter dispute last year were ordered yesterday to pay \$6.6 million (£2.8 million) in damages to four domestic airlines. The Victorian Supreme Court in Melbourne ordered the Australian Federation of Airline Pilots to pay the damages, including \$2 million in legal costs. Mr Brian McCarthy, the federation president, said the union could not afford to pay even if it sold its six-storey office headquarters in central Melbourne. The dispute started on August 18 last year when the pilots, seeking a 29 per cent pay rise, refused to work outside business hours.

Prince's secret visit

Rome - Prince Victor Emanuel of Savoy, the pretender to the Italian throne, reportedly dined in a fish restaurant near Viareggio last February in open defiance of a law forbidding heirs to the throne from setting foot in Italy (Paul Bonaparte writes). Although an article of Italy's postwar Constitution bans heirs to the throne from Italian soil, there have been reports of the prince visiting the country under a false identity. If caught, he could be arrested, but the Viareggio restaurant owner said that the prince was pleased rather than disturbed at being recognized.

Perth woman leader

Sydney - Australia's first woman to be elected a state Premier, Dr Carmen Lawrence, aged 41, yesterday replaced Mr Peter Dowding, the leader of the troubled West Australian Labor Party (Robert Cockburn writes). Mr Dowding's departure removes an embarrassing obstacle shortly before Mr Bob Hawke, the Labor Prime Minister of Australia, announces the federal election date - expected to be between March 17 and the end of May.

Ethiopians still in port

Nairobi (Reuter) - Ethiopian government forces retained a toe-hold in the embattled Red Sea port of Masawa on Sunday night, despite claims by Eritrean rebels to have captured the town on Saturday, a UN official said yesterday. But it was clear that the Eritrean People's Liberation Front had crippled government supply lines in the area and halted all famine relief work in Eritrea. Masawa was the last remaining gateway for supplies to government-held areas.

February 12 1990

PARLIAMENT

End all violence, minister begs S Africa groups

MANDELA

The steps taken by President de Klerk had created a completely new climate in South Africa, Mr William Waldegrave, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, said in a Commons statement on the release of Mr Nelson Mandela.

"We warmly welcome the release of Mr Mandela", he said to cheer.

He called on all parties in South Africa to end violence and to enter into negotiations. He gave a warning of a white backlash if recent moves were not recognized by the outside world.

Mr Waldegrave said that Mr Mandela was the symbol of the aspirations of millions of South Africans for a non-racial and democratic South Africa. Mr de Klerk had transformed policy in South Africa since he became president.

He had initiated a series of steps, including a commitment to abolish much of the so-called "petty apartheid", the "unbanning" of political organizations and now the release of Mr Mandela.

All of those steps had been demanded by the British Government, the international community and this House. Taken together, they had created a completely new climate in South Africa.

It was a climate in which dialogue could begin about the huge task of dismantling apartheid completely. It was a challenge for those black and whites who wished to maintain the old order of confrontation.

It was vital to send a signal to the white community that President de Klerk's steps would find a response from the international community. That was why the Government believed

that it made sense to stop discouraging investment and tourism in South Africa (Conservative cheers and Labour protest).

Mr Gerald Kaufman, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that Labour welcomed Mr Mandela's release as another recent step by President de Klerk. We trust that successful negotiations will soon begin to bring about a South Africa with a vote for every man and woman on a common role.

"Although Mr Mandela is no longer in prison, he is not a free man. He cannot live where he chooses, he has no vote. For him and for the rest of the non-white majority in South Africa, the whole of South Africa continues to be a prison - and will be until apartheid and the police state are completely dismantled."

At the Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Kuala Lumpur in October, Mrs Margaret Thatcher had signed a statement which affirmed "that the justification for sanctions against South Africa was to abolish apartheid by bringing it to the negotiating table and keeping it there until that change was irreversibly secured."

Since that objective had clearly not been achieved, how could the Prime Minister call for relaxation of sanctions, particularly of the ban on direct investment?

Since Mr Mandela called for sanctions to be maintained, whom should be trusted - a Prime Minister whose every action had been to prop up apartheid (Conservative MP: Rubbish) or someone who had spent 27 years and more of his life fighting apartheid?

"The world has made its choice and that is why the Prime Minister is isolated in the United Nations, isolated in the Commonwealth and in the EC."

"No thanks to her, but all thanks and praise to Mr Mandela and the millions of other Africans fighting for justice, apartheid is damned and apartheid will be destroyed."

Mr Waldegrave said that the sanctions that were introduced by the EC, some of which would continue, had been explicitly aimed at bringing national dialogue. Mr Mandela had said that he believed that such dialogue was about to begin.

"If we do not recognize the courage of the steps that have been taken and, I hope, will be taken by the other side, we would not be doing the right thing."

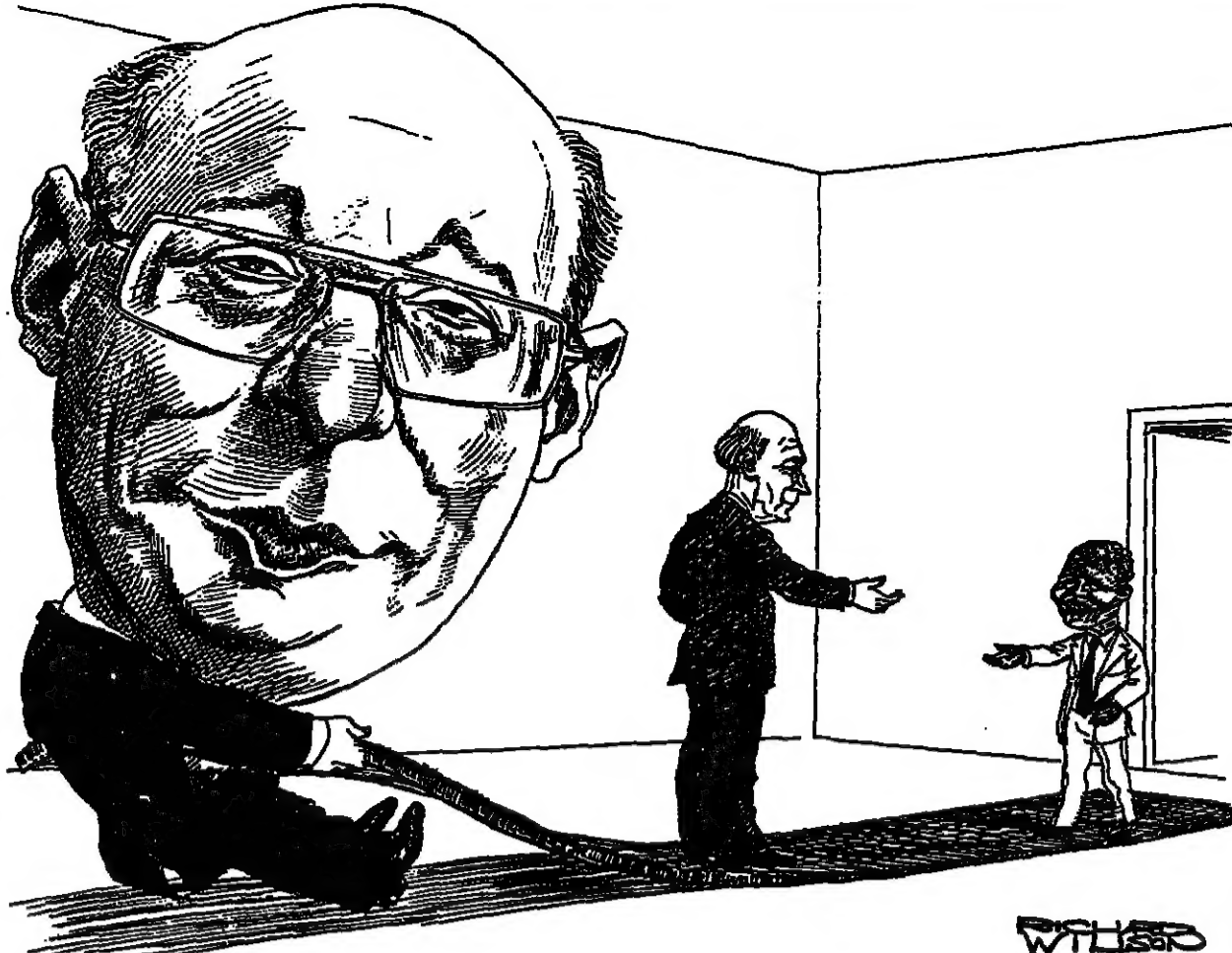
Was Labour policy to intensify sanctions? If so, Labour was as usual out of step.

Sir David Steel, Liberal Democrat spokesman on foreign affairs, said that the best way to secure British investment in South Africa was by paying more attention to the ANC and other political movements striving for democracy.

While Mr de Klerk was to be congratulated, South Africa could not be treated as a normal state until legal entrenchment of apartheid was lifted.

Mr Waldegrave: We must recognize, as in relation to the Soviet Union and the PLO, that those who wish to sit down and negotiate need our support and if we do not provide any support at all, he (Sir David) will surely blame us when the white backlash sweeps Mr de Klerk away."

Mr Robert Hughes (Aberdeen North, Lab), chairman of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, said that apartheid remained in place and until it was removed sanctions must stay. Instead of



support of President de Klerk, there should be support for the people of South Africa.

Mr Waldegrave said the people of South Africa, black and white, needed Britain's support. "There have been hands reaching out for reconciliation on both sides and it is to support that process that we have taken the steps we have."

Mr John Carlisle (Luton North, C) said that Mr Mandela's support for continuing the armed struggle was a "chilling reminder" that violence was still being used by the ANC. The lifting of sanctions would ensure the prosperity of South Africa, giving hope of peace and change.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab) said that the police were out of control. Many appeared to have sympathy with

the right who wanted to assassinate Mr Mandela.

Mr Waldegrave said that it was right to make progress, again and again, about the behaviour of the security forces.

Ms Diane Abbott (Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Lab) said that Mrs Thatcher was widely regarded, in this country and abroad, as apartheid's fifth columnist. She had made a headlong rush to drop sanctions before there had been a word from President de Klerk about bringing down the fundamentals of apartheid or a word about one person, one vote.

She was exposed, like fifth columnists elsewhere, as redundant, marginal and out of step.

Mr Waldegrave criticized the extravagance of Ms Abbott's language. The Prime Minister was as determined as anyone to see the destruction of apartheid

Mr Cyril Townsend (Bedfordshire, C) asked that Britain's response be co-ordinated with the European countries of the Commonwealth and the United States, which had taken a strong line on sanctions.

Sanctions were imposed not for the release of one distinguished leader from prison but to help bring down the system seen by the international community as unjust.

Mr Waldegrave agreed that the objective of the House and the world was the destruction of apartheid.

The Council of Ministers, when EC sanctions were passed in 1986, had reaffirmed the economic interests of its business friends - here and there the interests of the South Africans.

Mr Waldegrave said that, not for the first time, Mr Benn had the wrong conspiracy theory.

that the three greatest dangers now were the extremism of the extreme left, the extremism of the extreme right and the extremism of the extremely stupid.

It would be extremely stupid, in the light of the analysis of sub-Saharan Africa by the recent report of the World Bank, to go along with the line suggested by Mr Mandela to strengthen sanctions.

The South African economy was the powerhouse of the whole of sub-Saharan Africa.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) said that the Government's position on sanctions had been motivated more to preserve the economic interests of its business friends than the interests of the South Africans.

Mr Waldegrave said that, not for the first time, Mr Benn had the wrong conspiracy theory.

Electricity price 'should not go much above inflation'

The price of electricity to the smaller consumer should not rise by much more than the price of inflation, the Secretary of State for Energy said. He said that the Government would prevent any further real increases before the end of March 1993. Mr John Wakeham, Secretary of State for Energy, said that when he announced arrangements for privatizing the electricity industry.

He hoped that the public electricity supply companies would make supply reductions to customers during the period up to March 1993.

He said that the average price for all customers supplied by the public electricity supply companies would be controlled by a "Retail Price Index - X + Y" formula, where Y represented the costs to the firms of buying the electricity supplied.

In reply to questions later, he said that X equalled all the costs incurred by area boards other than the costs of the electricity itself, which they had to buy from the generators.

All the expenditure on prices allowed for the effect of the fossil-fuel

levy which he intended to set for 1990-91 at 10.6 per cent on the value of the fuel sales. He expected that rate of the levy would decline significantly over the next eight years.

The levy was not only to ensure that the output from existing and contracted committed nuclear plant, but to encourage the development of commercial renewable energy sources. About 300 had been put forward to area boards in response to that policy.

A further two months were being allowed to area boards to complete their negotiations with renewable operators. The licences being published today would provide for orderly transition to a competitive market by allowing other suppliers to compete with area supply companies at the outset, for large customers taking more than one megawatt; after four years, for customers taking more than 100 kilowatts; and, after eight years, for all customers.

He knew that those in the industry

ENERGY POLICY

were keen to be privatized to respond to the new challenges and to rid themselves of the dead hand of the public sector.

Mr Frank Dobson, Opposition spokesman on energy, said that price increases would be needed only to fit the industry for privatization.

In the past three years coal prices had dropped by 6 per cent, electricity prices had risen by 12 per cent, and generators' profits had gone up by 9 per cent. The new coal contract envisaged further cuts in the price of coal, so why was it necessary to have such price increases for consumers?

Did the licences put an obligation to supply on the two main generating companies? If not, could there be any security of supply?

The interests of domestic and industrial consumers, the balance of payments and the environment were all being put second to the require-

ment put on Mr Wakeham by the Prime Minister to get the industry sold off as quickly as possible.

Mr Wakeham said that the intention was to privatize the industry at a proper and fair price.

He did not expect that, on average, there would be any price increases in real terms at all.

The cost of nuclear power was paid for by consumers in their bills now. This was simply being brought out into the open.

On the obligation to supply and security of supply, the arrangements under the Electricity Act were rather better than the previous ones which had been too bureaucratic.

In the past 10 years there had been a big improvement in energy efficiency, and the proposals would improve the situation.

Mr John Hanning (Exeter, C) said that not long ago Labour was predicting price increases after privatization of more than 20 per cent. It was now grumbling because they might be pegged to the level of

inflation, something Labour never achieved.

Mr Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said that over the past 12 months, and for some time ahead, every domestic electricity quarterly bill would be at least £10 higher because of preparation for privatization.

Sir Trevor Skeet (North Bedfordshire, C) said that it was important to bear in mind the future size of the nuclear industry, and not wait until the review in 1994 when it might be too late. The nuclear power stations had to be built and required a research and development programme, otherwise it could leave Britain in great difficulty.

Mr Wakeham said that the good level of management being organized would mean that nuclear capacity was used to best advantage in the period up to 1994. There was a long-term role for nuclear power.

The price increases included the non-fossil fuel obligations, he said later.

Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Crom-

arty and Skye, Lib Dem) said that all the tough political decisions had been postponed beyond the date of the next election.

In a later reply, Mr Wakeham said that the Government would achieve the EC directive on reducing polluting power station emissions, and would be seen to achieve it, but it would not do it in a way that was not the most sensible way.

After the statement had been repeated in the House of Lords, Lord Williams of Elvel, Opposition spokesman on energy, said that the Government's declaration that it accepted price rises was encouraging inflation psychology. The CEB had the advantage of price agreements with British Coal, so why was it necessary to have price increases at all?

Viscount Ulswater, for the Government, said that prices would rise at only the rate of inflation or thereabouts, but prices were still lower in real terms than five years ago.

Mr Charles Kennedy (Ross, Crom-

Bridge debt now £342m

The accumulated debt of the Humber Bridge is £342 million, Mr Robert Atkins, Under Secretary of State for Transport, said at a question time. The bridge board was preparing a detailed case for government assistance.

Mr James Cran (Beverley, C) said that the saga of the bridge had gone on too long. Next year the accumulated debt was projected to rise to £400 million with interest charges adding £1 a second. As everyone believed that this should be resolved, including the Government, what was the impediment?

Mr Atkins said that the Government hoped to take a decision in the not-too-distant future.

Mrs Joan Ruddock, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said that the policy of charging



Mrs Ruddock: Time for toll policy to be reviewed.

tolls was not a success. Where tolls could pay, as in Dartford, they caused congestion. Where they did not, they forced op-

erators to raise payments to a level that was a grave disincentive to local business, as in Humberside and Merseyside. It was time the Government reviewed its policy on tolls.

Mr Atkins said that the Humber Bridge had been built by Barbara Castle to ensure a by-election victory for Labour in Hull. "Typically, it was a costly property and never, ever will make money. The taxpayer may therefore have to pay some of the bill."

Mr Peter Smeeth, an Opposition spokesman on transport, had said earlier that the Midlands was grateful for the multi-million pound cross-Birmingham electrification scheme announced last week. He understood it had no connection with the pending Mid-Staffordshire by-election.

There was a crisis in the legal aid system, with fewer and fewer people qualifying for help, Mr Keith Vaz (Leicester East, Lab) said when he opened a debate on legal services.

Parliament was giving people rights which they could not afford to enforce, he said.

Mr Vaz criticized the public funding between the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). That had been astonishing and the only people who could have an interest in the quarrel were criminals.

From birth, the CPS had suffered from gross under-resourcing and under-staffing. More than £40 million had been paid to private agency lawyers in the past three years because of the shortage of CPS staff.

There was a crisis in the

LAW SERVICES

provision of legal aid. In the past 10 years, 15 million people had lost the right to qualify.

Eight per cent fewer people used the "general" legal aid scheme compared with 1987-88 - the largest and only the second drop in the scheme.

There was a 3 per cent drop in civil legal aid certificates over the same period, whereas previously there had been a steady increase in the number of certificates issued.

This year, 56 per cent of the population was eligible whereas, in 1979, the figure had been 79 per cent.

"Justice is being cash limited. I call it justice-capping. Yet never before has there been such

a need for people to be given proper legal advice and assistance."

The duty solicitor scheme was in danger of collapse and he was concerned at the way in which contracting out of legal services was to be operated.

"Franchises might be appropriate for McDonald's but I do not believe it is good enough for justice to be treated as a junk food chain."

Justice could be made available quickly to people only if the legal system worked. The Crown Prosecution Service, legal aid system, public solicitors scheme, county courts and magistrates' courts were not working efficiently or effectively. Parliament must ensure that these problems were resolved with a minimum of delay.

Mr David Martin (Port-

smouth South, C) defended the Lord Chancellor (Lord Mackay of Clashfern) against attacks on the Courts and Legal Services Bill. He accused the Bar and the judiciary of using the public interest as an army might use women and children to defend itself against attack. It was bunkum to say that the Lord Chancellor had attacked the independence of the judiciary, or that that amounted to an attack on liberty.

Mr John Fraser, an Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, welcomed recent changes in eligibility for legal aid but said that they did not go far enough.

In the past two years a million households and 2.5 million people had ceased to be eligible. That was because the increase in legal aid limits had not kept pace with inflation or earnings.

Mr David Martin (Port-

Soviet economists seek Labour help

By Nigel Williamson, Political Staff

Soviet economics experts have sought the advice of the Labour Party in their plans to move towards a mixed economy.

Mr Christopher Smith, the junior Labour Treasury spokesman, who has just returned from a conference between leading Soviet economists and representatives of 10 West European socialist parties in Moscow, told a press conference at Westminster yesterday that the Soviet side had wanted to discuss how to give greater emphasis to free-market activity while retaining a "substantial role for the state in providing the basic infrastructure."

Mr Smith said: "They want a sensible balance between public and private, and in this respect they are heading exactly in the direction of European democratic-socialist thinking."

He said that Soviet economists were anxious to "cut" experts from democratic socialist "experts" from democratic socialist "experts" rather than from "bridled" capitalists in their efforts to implement perestroika.

Mr Smith said that he and other West European socialists had urged a rethink of the Soviet

taxation system which penalizes efficiency and subsidizes inefficiency and had urged a range of other measures to encourage long-term investment, including special bond issues and regional investment banks.

The conference was organized through the Socialist International, and it is hoped that meetings will be arranged between Mr Smith, shadow Chancellor, and Soviet experts.

Mr Christopher Smith said: "There was a breathtaking openness to new thinking in the discussions we had. Leading Soviet spokesmen were saying things which would have been unthinkable two years ago."

"They are aware of the enormous problems they face and the acute difficulties in implementing perestroika. But they are also clear that they do not want the Adam Smith instincts to take over - that pure market forces will always act in a beneficial way."

Mr Smith said that there was great potential for Western investment in the Soviet economy and that a Labour government would use trading policy to promote joint ventures.

The House of Commons is expected to have a further vote on capital punishment in the 1990-91 session, in theory giving MPs the chance of restoring the death penalty for murder.

The Home Office is expected to produce a comprehensive Bill in the autumn, implementing the proposals in the Government's recent White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*, and Conservative MPs in favour of the death penalty are planning to move a new clause to the Bill at report stage.

Mr David Waddington, the first Home Secretary for many years to be in favour of the death penalty, is expected to support the move, but he accepts that there is unlikely to be any change in the law as a result.

The death penalty for murder was finally abolished in Britain in 1969 and in five votes in the past nine years attempts at restoration have failed by large majorities on every occasion.

In April 1987, the Commons rejected a call to bring back the death penalty for "evil" murders by 342 votes to 230, a majority against restoration of 112.

When MPs argued that that was not a fair test, as some had objected that defining an "evil" murder was too complicated for a jury, a further test was arranged at the report stage of the Criminal Justice Bill in June 1988. That came after a promise by Mr Douglas Hurd, who was then Home

Waddington's support expected

New death penalty debate likely

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

Secretary, to have the opinion of the Commons tested once more.

On that occasion a simple call for the restoration of the death penalty was defeated by 341 votes to 218, a majority of 123, with the Cabinet split ten to five against restoration.

After that result on a traditional free vote in the most Thatcherite Parliament we are likely to see for some time, proponents of the death penalty conceded that it was difficult to see any events leading to its restoration in the foreseeable future.

Restoration was rejected in earlier votes after Mrs Thatcher came to power by majorities of 152, 129 and 119. In July 1983, there were majorities of 145 against the death penalty in general, 116 against its restoration for terrorists and 81, the lowest figure, against its restoration for those who kill police officers on duty.

A new book on the worldwide use of the death penalty, by Mr Roger Hood, Reader in Criminology at Oxford University and a UN adviser on crime prevention, reveals that only four states in Western Europe retain the death penalty for ordinary offences and that the last execution in one of those, Turkey, took place in 1984.

In the world as a whole, 27 countries have abolished the death penalty in the past 24 years and 9 more are *de facto* abolitionist. But two formerly abolitionist countries have

reinstated the death penalty and thirteen others which had appeared to be *de facto* abolitionist have executed people.

In China the official policy is one of "killing only a few". Over 23 years, 54 retentionist countries have increased the range of crimes punishable by death, in 22 cases for drug offences and in 6 for sex offences. But the number of executions has declined steadily since 1981, largely due to less use of them by countries which had executed the most.

In the past 10 years public executions have taken place in 22 countries. On the question of deterrence, Mr Hood says that it has been shown that, even where the rate of homicide has increased after abolition, it has lagged well behind the increase in other violent crimes.

"Comparative studies of neighbouring retentionist and abolitionist states in the United States of America have confirmed the earlier findings that abolition is not associated with higher homicide rates in general or more murders of police or prison officers."

While admitting that most studies have methodological flaws, Mr Hood concludes: "The evidence as a whole still gives no positive support to the deterrent hypothesis."

The Death Penalty: A Worldwide Perspective by Roger Hood (Oxford University Press, £17.50).

BR chief attacked on fares policy

The chairman of British Rail, Sir Robert Reid, was criticized at question time by Labour MPs for his fares and advertising policies.

Mr Peter Smeeth, an Opposition spokesman on transport, described as disgraceful comments that long-distance commuters had to pay increases of 40 per cent on what were already the highest fares in Europe.

Such stupid and ill informed comments would not endear the Conservatives to those commuters in the South-east who had voted for them for years.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Transport, said that the previous Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Paul Channon) had said that long distance commuters, representing 18,000 of British Rail's commuters or 0.5 per cent, were getting discounts of more than 60 per cent on their season tickets. They were paying less for their journey than discounted off-peak tickets.

Mr Channon had felt that the gap should be narrowed, although not closed. Rises this year were 30.5 per cent.

Mr Marilyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) congratulated the chairman of Brit-

ish Rail on the excellent advertisements for InterCity trains but said that they bore no relationship to reality. It would be helpful for travellers from Leeds to know that the trains were not going to be on time, that they would have to change at Doncaster and would arrive an-hour-and-a-half late.

Mr Parkinson said that the new objectives for British Rail were not only financial but also included punctuality and cleanliness. British Rail's performance against those objectives would be published.

● M25 PLAN: An action plan for the M25 would be issued soon by the Government, following the consultants' review, which would propose further improvements. Mr Robert Atkins, Minister for Roads and Traffic, said at questions.

Mr John Marshall (Hendon South, C) said that the M25 was Britain's longest traffic jam. By the twenty-first century the proposed widening to four lanes would not be adequate. The Government should build a "son of M25", an outer one, to relieve the congestion.

Mr Atkins said that the motorway was a victim of its own success.

Authors to get a '29% pay rise'

There is to be a 29 per cent increase in 1991-92 in government funding of the public lending right by which authors are paid for the borrowing of their books from public libraries.

Mr Richard Luce, Minister for the Arts, announcing the increase during question time, said that funding in 1990-91 would be £3.5 million and about 15,500 authors would receive payment in February 1991.

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, C) said that Salman Rushdie would benefit. Did Mr Luce agree with the saying: I may not agree with his words, but I will defend to the death his right to say them?

Mr Luce: A cardinal principle of our democracy is freedom of expression.

Manchester trains plea

The Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority was failing to deliver adequate services and should get extra funds, Mr Andrew Bennett (Denton and Reddish, Lab) said at question time. During the last 12 months there had been a succession of late and cancelled trains. "There ought to be a refund and a cutting of fares, not an increase."

Mr Michael Portillo, Minister for Public Transport, said that he had a great deal of sympathy with the delays. It was not for him to attribute blame, but the "sprinter" trains should be delivered in early spring and the summer and should improve services.

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SPECTRUM

The Chancellor's new clothes

GRAHAM WOOD

The man who guided Britain's economic fortune for most of the past decade tells Barbara Amiel about MPs and money, 'sanctimonious humbug' and the politics of envy

THE TIMES

INTERVIEW

I met Nigel Lawson in his City office at the headquarters of Barclay's Bank. It was only his second day in the job and his new secretary was extremely worried. She shared a little woman-to-woman moment with me. "I work for another man here as well," she said, "and Mr Lawson hasn't told me a thing about what he wants. I don't even know what days he will be coming in." I had a feeling that his best behaviour notwithstanding, Lawson might not approve of shared confidences from his secretary. Very soon, I assured her, she would be hearing precisely what he wanted.

I cannot remember what he was wearing, not a single detail, only an impression. The impression comes from walking behind him and it is of a pair of trousers and a jacket of ample size and extensive crumpling, walking about, flapping, quite independently of their owner. It was rather like Gogol's short story about the man who wakes up and finds his nose has gone off in his best suit. I can't think why one has this impression of Lawson unless it is that his lack of interest in matters of style is so genuine that his clothes have noticed it and gone their own way. Some people, of course, make a snobbish point with a seeming sartorial indifference. In Lawson's case, I think it is a simple matter of a man of considerable intellect who can only be interested in so many things. It happens that he is not interested in croquet or clothing.

He is not much interested in talking about personal matters, either. There has been a lot of critical press comment about his new directorships and the money he is earning. "I don't want this to be a dominant thing," he said as I pressed him for a comment on the ruckus. "But I think we've been treated to a dose of the sort of sanctimonious humbug which is characteristic of sections of the British Press. It is the politics of envy and an awful lot of humbug. Everybody knows that people get paid all different salaries, that newspaper editors don't do all that badly, but it's a sort of nauseating form of demagoguery."

Weren't nasty headlines in the tabloid Press more painful for his young children and family than for him, I asked. I believe I spotted a reaction in his face, but all he said was that he really didn't like pleading and could we move on. He is, one suspects, putty in the hands of his family, or how else could he have been persuaded to dress up as a Carnaby Street dandy and face seeing his picture in velvet trousers in the Press? "It was fancy dress for a Sixties party," he said, adding "not that I have any great affinity for it, although I think my wife does have more. Bravery comes more naturally to me than dressing up."

Bravery in charting unknown waters, I should think. Economic textbooks do not have chapters on what to do with privatization and its proceeds, or measures for finance ministers to take when, having put on the brakes by raising interest rates, consumers go on spending.

"There was nothing written about it, nothing at all," he said.

"We were doing things that had never been done before, which is quite unusual in government. Usually when a new government comes in and says, 'We want to do X', then the officials can drag out a file from a dusty cupboard which has got all the accumulated civil service wisdom on X, but privatization wasn't like that at all. They started from a blank sheet and they had no dusty files in the cupboard."

"To some extent we learnt as we went along, but we were immensely successful. Successful by whatever yardstick you choose. Successful in the sense that we have privatized getting on for what was 50 per cent of the state-owned sector and put it now in the private sector, where it is doing very much better as a result. The fact is that other countries throughout the world have sought to emulate us, indeed come here to see how it was done, and that in techniques of privatization we have been innovative."

At this point, Lawson's well-known eye for detail became manifest as he fixed my tape recorder with it and insisted that it wasn't working. I couldn't detect an error but he continued to insist several times that the machine was faulty. Was this gamemanship (he had, after all, already prefaced a remark with "I don't know how long you have been in this country, but...") or an example of his overwhelming confidence in all matters? Ten minutes later the machine did go on the blink and Lawson had shown his presence. I should have listened to him. I wondered how the Prime Minister had handled his confident corrections.

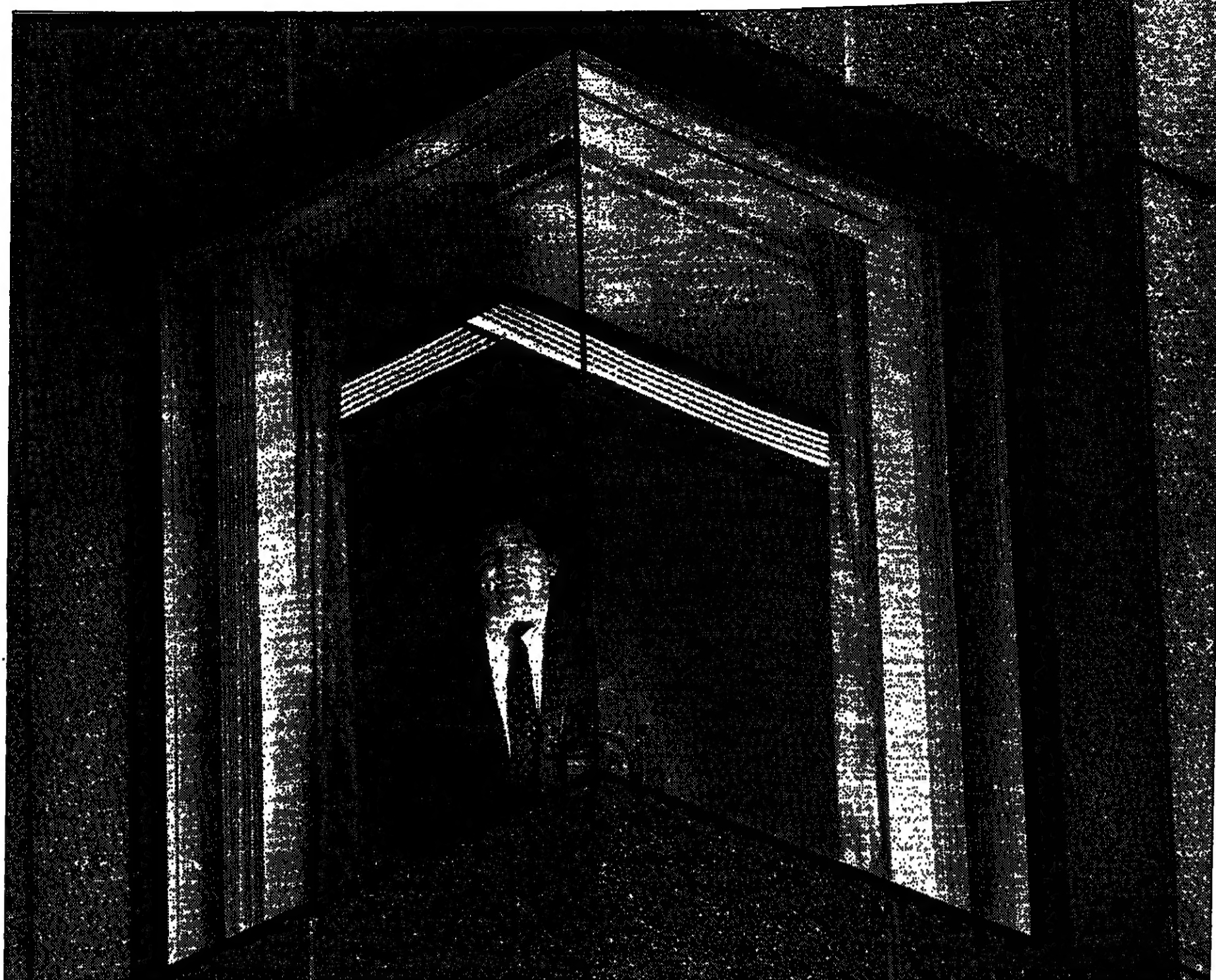
"I don't want to go into that," he said when asked about his relationship with Mrs Thatcher. "Although we are different in many ways, in fact our political thinking is much more alike than her political thinking is to many of my colleagues. Although we did have certain well-publicized differences, in fact the areas of agreement are very much larger."

Who did he think would be Mrs Thatcher's successor? "I don't think it is a live issue," he replied. Would he wish to re-enter government? "In politics, the unexpected always happens," he said, "and you just have to see how events unfold."

Lawson never appeared to be hungry for the leadership. "If I'd had political ambition, I think I would have got into politics earlier. I was over 40 when I first became a member of the House of Commons, which is relatively late. I didn't go into politics with any great ambition at all, it was to be Chancellor of the Exchequer and I never expected that ambition to be fulfilled."

As Chancellor, Lawson presided over the most successful economic boom in modern Britain and it is certainly fair to credit him with an important role in creating the international strategies that checked the great crash of 1987. Could that have turned into a real depression, I asked.

"I certainly believe that had the major nations not taken action, nothing would have definitely happened but the risk of a world



A face at the window: Nigel Lawson says that since he ceased being Chancellor no new measures have been taken and "everybody now accepts that things are sorting themselves out"

spiral into a major depression was a real one. It was not just a question of people spending but of a real collapse of confidence throughout the western industrialized world... The Press was not helping because it was writing as if it was a foregone conclusion that we were going to see the Thirties over again. I think one had to take counter-action and, of course, now that is blamed for having caused the slight upsurge in inflation. But I think if I had my time again, I would have done the same thing again because I think it was right."

But did his loosening of credit, in order to restore confidence, last just a little too long?

"Yes, well, maybe. But subsequently, there was substantial tightening up and, indeed, since I ceased being Chancellor no new measures have been taken. Everybody now accepts that things are sorting themselves out."

Was it much harder to be a monetarist in practice than in theory?

"Yes, that is particularly true if another of your ideas is freedom and deregulation, which it certainly was. The more freedom you create, the more you deregulate. The paradox is, the harder it is to conduct the policies because people use all their imagination to find other ways of doing things and the statistics never quite catch up with what people are doing in the real world... I've always been guided by two principles: because the thing is very difficult to do doesn't mean you shouldn't try, and the second principle is

that you do learn from experience. Now I've been accused of inconsistency. It doesn't worry me greatly, because it hasn't seemed to me inconsistent, it seemed to me changing my mind and adapting to changing conditions."

Those changing conditions include a changing idea of Europe. Lawson is opposed to European monetary union but he is in favour of a "sooner rather than later" approach to the exchange rate mechanism. This, of course, is part of his fundamental disagreement with the Prime Minister, who sees the loss of control over interest rates and the management of debt and credit as a fundamental threat to national sovereignty. How, I asked, can we join the European Monetary System and retain national sovereignty?

"The answer," Lawson said, "is the same way as other countries. At any point they have a choice. The same way as when countries were on the gold standard. Countries believed it was in their interest to stay on the gold standard but they always had the opportunity to leave it. Fundamental issues of sovereignty are at stake only when an irreversible change occurs and an irreversible transfer of power."

His own view of the new Europe, about which he is enthusiastic, is thrown into relief by his opinions on the prospect of a united Germany. "This unification is going to come," Lawson said, "and it is quite foolish to stand in its way. On the monetary side, it has a great significance. The monetary union that is now

I've always been guided by two principles: because the thing is very difficult doesn't mean you shouldn't try, and you learn from experience'

proposed is explicitly the precursor of full political union and the main reason why I have been opposed to European monetary union is because I don't want to see European political union. I want to see a community, not a single state, which is what is going to happen to Germany. It does mean, of course, that in order to preserve a proper balance in the community, Britain and France will have to become much closer."

Politicians, like all other human beings, have varying degrees of philosophical and intellectual inclinations. Most politicians, like most dentists or factory managers, would not, for example, spend much time worrying about original sin. But Lawson, whose conservatism is tinged with

Friedrich von Hayek's libertarianism, enjoys moving from practical talk to the abstract world of ideas. "I do believe in original sin," he said when I asked him if the end of communism meant the end of evil. "I believe that you are born sinful and that there will always be sin in this world."

It is in this sense that he sees conservatism as the politics of imperfection, taking a realistic view of human nature. Intrigued, I asked him if he was an agnostic, knowing that he was not a practising Jew. It turned out to be an ineluctable question. "I'd rather not talk about that area if you don't mind," he said. Then I remembered that his wife and children are practising Catholics and I realized that his evasiveness was based on a profound sensitivity towards their beliefs. It also suggested that his own moral sense was probably humanist-based.

We were talking about salaries of Members of Parliament. I think, when a photographer from *The Times* appeared. I had been advancing the idea of *noblesse oblige* as a good reason for politicians to have modest salaries. Lawson felt that modest salaries were costing the Government good people and mentioned Lord Gower, who resigned as arts minister in 1985, complaining he could not manage on his £33,000-a-year salary. Then he spoke of himself.

"I obviously am now earning a substantial amount," he said, "but I sacrificed far more financially during those 10 years with the Government. Now, it would be a

terrible thing if people went into politics, as they do in some countries where corruption is rife, for what they could get out of it. But there's quite a large gap between that state of affairs and what we have in Britain today." The idea of *noblesse oblige* in government, Lawson argued, automatically creates a civil service ethos which is hostile to wealth. "The capitalist system is seen as something rather grubby. If you say nobility is associated with low pay, then it is a very easy transition to say that those who are on large salaries, those who do do what they are doing for the money, are ignoble."

It was at that point that the photographer began to try to set up Lawson's photograph. The office was barely furnished. "I haven't kitted it up yet," Lawson said. Apart from a bookcase, empty except for *Who's Who*, there was only his desk. Lawson refused to be photographed behind him. "People will guess I have a desk," he said caustically. The photographer had a shot from behind it in mind. "Front or behind, it's still a desk," Lawson said. "I think we've done enough."

Lawson's acute dislike of being photographed is well-known. One couldn't help but feel sympathy for him. "I sometimes sound pompous," he had volunteered earlier, looking very at ease. Now he looked so discomforted. "I hate being a performing monkey," he said with real feeling. And then, with immense politeness, he took the photographer's direction and performed perfectly.

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OBAS ORTHOPAEDIC AND MEDBEDS

Believe it, or believe it not

Leaving a newspaper office at night is as difficult as finding your way back up out of Avernus. The telephone always rings. There is always somebody who wants something; something else to be done.

I was making a dash for the door the other night, when Marit stopped me and asked: "Is there any difference between a pagan and a heathen?" (Oh, we discuss more than the racing and other news of the moment at Wapping, I can tell you.) At her German class they had said that there is no word for "pagan" in German, and that there is no difference between the two words in English.

This cannot be quite true. No two words are *exactly* the same, though in this Venn diagram the circles overlap to a considerable extent. Let us see whether we can find one of those fine distinctions that make English the richest language in the world.

Both words overlap in meaning somebody belonging to a religion or culture different from one's own, which in this case (because the words are English) usually means a non-Christian. Both words have long and interesting histories, during which their meanings and accretions of connotations have naturally changed, so constantly shifting the Venn diagram.

Heathen was marked for life by being selected by the translators of the Old Testament in the Authorized Version: "Why do the

heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?" "Deliver us from the heathen" ... "I will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard."

The word means a heath-dweller: somebody who lives in waste land, a primitive savage. There is a cognate connection with the Greek *ethnos*, a people, from which we get the fashionable word *ethnic*.

It is a strong, disapproving word, mainly because of its resonances from King James's 47 revisers of Tyndale and Wyclif. Religious bigotry is always with us, but the Crusades are over.

It would be difficult for anybody except a hardened bigot to use *heathen* today without offending somebody somewhere, and other than jocularly. "The heathen in his blindness bows down to wood and stone." It is a narrow word, confined to lesser breeds without the Law, who do not believe in Christianity, or did not believe in Jehovah.

Pagan is a broader and softer

NEW WORDS FOR OLD

Philip reckons a heathen has something to do with living in Hampstead



GED

word. It also refers to people who are not Christian, maybe through no fault of their own, because, like Socrates or Virgil, they were born too early. It is used mainly to mean the ancient Greeks and Romans, and therefore it does not carry the connotations of primitive savagery that encumber *heathen*.

It also means a villager, countryman, rustic, civilian, from the Latin *paganus*, a rural district, originally a village boundary mark fixed in the earth, from *pangere*, to fix. Gibbon nods when he suggests that the word comes from the Doric *page*, a fountain. The doublet of *pagan* is "peasant" and its cognates in modern European languages.

With the great increase of a standing army under the Roman Empire, *pagan* was adopted as the name for a civilian, as the correlative of *miles*, a soldier.

The early Christians called themselves *milites*, the "enrolled soldiers" of Christ. And their adversaries who refused his sacrament, or "military" oath of

baptism, deserved the contemptuous metaphorical name of *pagan*, i.e. civilians. This use of *pagan* to mean non-Christian was introduced as early as the reign of Valentinian (AD 365) into the imperial laws. This led Gibbon and his successors to point out that Christianity was originally a religion of the cities and of townships, while the old religion(s) lingered on in the sticks and the boondocks. Accordingly, they made a nice connection between *pagan* as civilian non-Christian, and *pagan* as rustic peasant. Unfortunately, it will not connect. The use of *pagan* to mean non-Christian is found in Tertullian about AD 202, long before Christianity was accepted as the state religion in the towns and cities of the Roman Empire. *Pagan* in this sense has been found in an epitaph of the second century.

All these religious labels are dodgy value words. Like all value words, they depend upon where you are standing. But *pagan* today seems a pretty neutral word to apply to somebody who does not care much for metaphysical matters, and prefers a life of the intellect and the senses. There is (alas, mercifully?) no room to discuss the other words in this Venn diagram, such as *Gentile*, *barbarian*, *infidel*, *idolater*, *heretic*, *philistine*, etc. *ad nauseam*. Will that do, Marit?

Philip Howard

هكذا من الأصل

THE ARTS

It's a long, long trail a-winding

TELEVISION
Sheridan Morley

On what promised to be a television night almost entirely devoted to local police corruption, with long-run specials on both *World in Action* and *Panorama* (at least until Nelson Mandela cut a freedom trail through the scheduling) some of us had even more important matters to attend to. Over on BBC 2, *Wainwright's Coast to Coast* was at last nearing completion.

A month of Mondays ago, you may just recall, Alfred the great pedestrian and Eric Robson his ceaselessly chattering sidekick set out to plod their way across England from the Irish to the North Sea. At that time, I suggested they were like something out of a minor Flaubert play. By the end, they had become positively Beckettian, with *Wainwright* slipping ever further into monosyllables and the expectation of Godot looming around every crag.

Robson veered from dramatized readings of an AA Roadbook ("We are handy for the A19 here") to Wordsworthian observations on the nature of nature. Presumably, if the hard himself had arrived around the corner with a bunch of his beloved daffodils, Robson would have asked precisely how many there were and how long they had taken him to grow.

Every 20 seconds or so, Eric would enquire pathetically of his companion as to where they had just come from or whether they were about to journey onwards. *Wainwright* however, stuck to his monosyllables, only breaking into lengthy sentences to describe the delights of a monastery where the inmates were, he said, looking sharply at Robson, never allowed to speak at all.

By now it was clear that the two of them belonged in a sitcom about an odd couple of compulsive bikers unable to communicate except in the most elementary or coded of fashions. "Great sense of pace here," said Robson staring aggressively at yet another expanse of rain-soaked nothingness. "Sleep drop on the other side, though," said *Wainwright*, apparently contemplating the possibilities of a nasty accident.

"If we carry on up this path," asked Robson indignantly, "where do we end up?" "Near the railway," said *Wainwright*, and sure enough we were then off on the ritual 10-minute detour about the ancient joys of steam.

Once, Robson blew his nose, thereby elevating the series to a level of high drama unmatched elsewhere. "Enjoying it?" asked *Wainwright*. But answer for once came there none. Then they found a sign about nesting birds being an endangered species, and *Wainwright* ventured that 3,000 grouse had been shot there during the previous season. "No wonder the buggers keep their heads down," said Robson mournfully, one endangered species recognizing another.

After that, they came to a boulder with a hole carved inside it which Robson reckoned would be "a glimpse of heaven for aerobically fit city dwellers". Quite why nerve-frayed city-dwellers would ever want to sit in a hole with a hole through it was never explained. But then again this has always been a mysterious series. The terrible thing is that now they have gone, I think I am going to miss them.

Simon Crine, the director of the National Campaign for the Arts, is leaving his post tomorrow. Today he sends an open letter of farewell to his long-term sparring partner Richard Luce, the Minister for the Arts and Civil Service

Just a word before I go



Simon Crine: seeking small sums

You, Arts Minister, have been in the firing line for most of my five years as Director of the National Campaign for the Arts, so it is to you that I address my parting thoughts. We both came in as outsiders — neither of us has ever earned a living from anything more creative than politics or journalism. Arts Ministers used to come and go quite quickly, especially under Mrs Thatcher, so it must be comforting for you to outlast yet another of your sparring partners.

The National Campaign for the Arts came into being in 1985 to give concrete expression to the arts world's lack of faith in the Recs-Mogg Arts Council, and to their fears for public funding after the abolition of the municipal Greater London Council and metropolitan county councils. It was the time when your predecessor, Lord Gowrie, was shugging it out in public with arts grantees such as Sir Peter Hall and Sir Denis Forman. Five years on, the arts survive mainly thanks to their own resilience but also because you have had a couple of triumphs over the Treasury.

That could have been the excuse for the Campaign to fade away, yet, paradoxically, the Campaign is stronger than ever. New theatres, orchestras and galleries, as

well as individuals join every week. I think that tells us something about the state of the arts today. Even now, when you have just managed to wring a 12 per cent increase out of the Treasury, artists and everyone who enjoys the arts, know that £400 million does not go very far, especially outside London. In any case it may well, despite Kent Opera and now the RSC, be a case of too little too late. Compare that with what the Mitterrand government is spending across the Channel. The truth is that the arts remain as "irresponsibly underfunded" today as they were when that notable, all-party Select Committee reported to your predecessor in 1982.

I know you say, I know you have to say, that there is a limit to what the taxpayer can afford to spend on the arts and that it is up to the theatres and dance companies to make more money for themselves if they want to expand. There can be little doubt that business sponsorship has gone up quite substantially over the last five years, and it makes a useful addition to the finances of those who receive it. I also know

largest component of any self-respecting arts organization's income) or for public funding.

May I also counsel you not to get too bogged down in fiddling about with structures? I know you are thinking about reorganizing the Arts Council, the Crafts Council and the regional arts associations, following the Wilding Report last year. Of course, the Arts Council is not perfect. Ever an empire-builder, it is inclined to overreach itself and it is far too swayed by the latest fashion — currently marketing, soon to be 1992. Nor do I buy any of this "arms-length" nonsense about the Council's neutrality and independence: it is bound to be influenced by the elected Government of the day. And yet, for all its faults, the Arts Council is a good buffer between artists and politicians who might interfere.

I am sure that there is some sensible streamlining to do, and that there is a need for greater coordination between the Arts Council and the regional arts associations. However, you must be careful not to sever the close links between local authorities and the regional bodies, which have

done so much to foster local arts activities. A major shake-up would absorb time, energy and money which would be better directed towards the arts themselves.

I am certainly not calling for more dirigisme from the Arts Minister. On the contrary, I am suggesting that all the arts need are relatively small sums of money to bridge the inevitable gap between earned income and expenditure. There is no shortage of talent in this country. I would urge you and your colleagues to find a little more money, to spread it wider and then to sit back and watch the flowers bloom.

There is one other urgent matter I would like to mention before I go: the worrying change in attitudes towards artistic freedom in recent years. It has never been easy for writers and performers to deal frankly with subjects like sex or religion in this country without facing a barracking from fundamentalists of one kind or another. The arts can live with criticism but they cannot live with intimidation or discrimination. Whether it is religious fundamentalism undermining Salman Rushdie's freedom of expression or Clause 28 discriminating against homosexuality, it is surely the job of the Arts Minister to speak up for artistic freedom.

Velazquez reigns in Spain

John Russell Taylor finds a Madrid arts fair eclipsed by an outstanding Old Master

In Madrid in the last week or so the International Art Fair, Arco 90, may have been the game, but for art-inclined visitors the Prado's amazing Velazquez show was undoubtedly the prize.

Arco, just entering its tenth year, has during the last nine been slowly but surely overhauling its main competitors on the Art Fair circuit. It is staged in a sort of fair field called the Real Casino de la Caza de Campo, across the river and into the suburbs, this year from February 8 to 13.

Next year, apparently, it is going to move to a new site close to the airport, but, apart from comparative inaccessibility, the pavilions of the Casa de Campo offer few causes for complaint: physically Arco is about the best turned-out fair in the world, with air, light, nice wide alleys between the stands and, these days, virtually no rubbish allowed to intrude. In terms of quality it is more than ready for Madrid's turn as European Cultural Capital in 1992.

Arco attracts many leading British, American and German galleries to exhibit, and encourages them to make it an exhibition rather than merely ramming as much stock as possible into the shop window. Artists on the whole are really showcased here, and participation is seen more in that light than as a direct attempt to sell on the spot. (Though sales, of course, are very welcome.) As well as encountering some interesting and unfamiliar contemporary art (visitors are particularly likely to find this on the Spanish stands), one can also hope to spot market trends.

This year it is very noticeable the way that promotion tends to follow major touring museum shows. The recent international assemblages of Picasso and Merit

Oppenheim, for instance, seem to have urged a number of dealers to dig appropriate examples for sale out of their stock.

There is a concerted move to push Oscar Dominguez up among the better-known Surrealists like Dalí and Ernst, which must have something to do with the big show of Latin-American art recently at the Hayward and now in Madrid at the Palacio Velazquez. There also seems to be an endless amount of Picasso available whenever one looks.

Away from "modern classics", it is intriguing to note how frequently British artists such as Tony Cragg, Ian Hamilton Finlay, Richard Long and Bill Culbert turn up in the stock of non-British galleries, without comment or any feeling of oddity. One sometimes wonders how far the context governs reaction to the art: for example, Antonio Jannone is showing some very pretty, finicky architectural and horticultural capricci by Stefano Faravelli which here look chicer post-modern. But would not the equivalent works by Felix Kelly, usually despised as chocolate-boxy, get the same sort of respect if shown in the same sort of way?

The crowds at Arco, though very considerable, are nothing compared with the mob scene regularly to be witnessed outside the Prado. The Velazquez show has been on since January 24 and runs until March 30; just nice time for everything to rise to fever pitch. But even the most sanguine at the Prado have been taken by surprise: Velazquez has become Madrid's hottest ticket, with thousands queuing in the sun and the smog for upwards of six hours. The show has attracted so many



"Maria Teresa of Spain", circa 1651-5, on loan from the Metropolitan Museum for the Velazquez show

who have never set foot in the museum before that the number daunted by the Velazquez line, who think they may as well look round the rest of it while they are there, is often ensuring a half-hour wait even to go through the main turnstiles.

All of which, while properly impressive as a gauge of Madrid's eagerness for culture, is in the event perfectly understandable. The earlier version of the Velazquez show which I wrote about from New York last year was remarkable enough, with 38 out of

Velazquez's 90-odd known works, but here the Prado (which of course owns the untransportable cream itself) makes as near as humanly possible a clean sweep, with no fewer than 79 works on show. This really is "once in a lifetime". And the result is to send one out dazed with delight and admiration.

There can be no argument that Velazquez, even if he was apparently more impressed with his own standing as gentleman-courtier than as painter, is one of the really great masters. One can see

here exactly why he was idolized by painters as different as Manet and Whistler and Ricketts, and how effortlessly he outstripped them all in the eloquence of his brushwork and the incisiveness of his vision.

To see this show and the Royal Academy's Hals show — the two painters, close contemporaries, strongly distinct and yet with astonishing similarities given that neither seemingly knew the other existed — in the same week is bliss indeed, a re-education in itself for anyone who truly loves painting.

Lovely discontinuity

OPERA IN ITALY
Nigel Jamieson
Lo frate 'nnamorato
La Scala, Milan

The music Pergolesi wrote before he died at the age of 26 has ensured him a place in operatic history but not, in our century, in the opera house. La Scala's production of *Lo frate 'nnamorato*, this new season, shows that his music is far too good to be neglected, but also the likely reasons why it has been.

This *commedia musicale*, composed for Naples in 1732, shares some of the flavour of *Così fan tutte*. Quite apart from the setting, the characters express their love-lorn emotions in serious music of great beauty in the context of a comic plot about rival lovers and unsuitable suitors. The range of styles is enormous, from full-

blown opera seria arias both straight and parodied to pieces influenced by Neapolitan folk-song; the characters are thus spiritually stratified by the type of music allotted to them, from the sublime desolation of the soprano hero Ascanio to the melancholy lament of the old schemer Marcellino.

In Milan the former part was played to perfection by Nuccia Focile, her crystal-clear voice infected with warmth and spontaneity, while the latter provided a ghouly vehicle for Alessandro Corbelli's comic gifts and rich powers of vocal characterization. The other outstanding voice in the young cast was Luciano d'Intino's ample but agile mezzo-soprano.

The volcanic presence Riccardo Muti brought to this season's *vesperi Siciliani* would have been quite out of place, and he presided unobtrusively from a seat on the podium, drawing from the Scala strings luminous clarity of texture and constant alertness to the



Alessandro Corbelli: comic gifts

changeable mood of the score. So why is this lovely music almost unknown? Mainly because the *commedia* cannot lay much claim to theatricality since it consists of a long string of arias and a very few short ensembles. The dramatic interest is therefore confined to the recitatives, but Roberto De Simone's production is so authentically Neapolitan that even the Milanese would need surtitles to follow the words.

than outward, but no less indicative of a state of mind.

Even though this movement is but the prologue to four others in Mahler's symphonic intention, it carries a musical logic and conviction without which no understanding of the composer's overall achievement is complete. A texture of strings and wind instruments devoid of percussion is woven into a slow symphonic rondo which this performance unfolds with care.

Between such weighty matters the Oboe Concerto from Strauss's late years came as a welcome respite in its Mozartian scale and lyricism. The Swiss virtuoso Heinz Holliger demonstrated his eminence in his perfect control of time and shading in the oboe's long first paragraph, and applied it in all that followed.

Breezing along with pop Handel

The young American director Peter Sellars is a star in Paris, his eccentric opera productions considered *le dernier cri* in stage revisionism. Last year, Parisians flocked to see how his shock tactics worked on Mozart operas (Glyndebourne has the same opportunity this summer). More recently, via Brussels Opera, came Sellars's version of Handel.

His breezy populism appeals to an inverted Parisian snobbery, his cut-out American stereotypes — Tolomeus with Walkman and Pepsi, Cesare as hickster President, Egypt an unmissable Holiday Inn — have an acceptable transatlantic charm. His forcible modernizations neatly embody what the French imagine is the American aesthetic: accessible, efficient, obscenity contemporary.

But Sellars is sometimes too modern for his own good, producing parodies of his style that damage the integrity of the original work. His notion of Giulio Cesare as shallow American

OPERA IN FRANCE
Adrian Dannatt
Giulio Cesare
Amandiers, Nanterre

imperialist, or Curio as a press attaché cum secret-service man, betrays his obsession with status-mongering and the media. With its podium speeches and grinning President, the production often echoes John Adams's *Nixon in China*, which Sellars also staged. Sellars is best with such operas, formal and repetitive in structure, where the music's fixed system allows him ample time to play with visual elements.

Inspired ideas — orchestra pit as swimming pool, complete with metal stairs down which Cleopatra climbs — occasionally lapse into collegiate silliness: Sellars as Animal House *entertainer*. If the poolside setting recalls Opera Factory's

Così fan tutte, much of the musical japey seems closer to Hoffmann than the avant-garde.

The stage bristles with machine-gun mercenaries; even if it is not actually the case, all Sellars's productions seem to feature such soldiers. That is a danger with "trademark theatre". Sellars does not know if he wants the work to be taken seriously or not. He mocks the conventions of the original with sometimes unforgivable vulgarity.

Very good at jokiness, Sellars can only deal with sincere emotion by leaving the voices to get on with it in darkness. The music is, as often, both a redemption and refutation of Sellars's approach; it is a reason to close one's eyes in ecstasy, despite a production determined to keep them popping.

If the Orchestre de la Mousaie was rather speedy, the singing generally was superb. Mary Westbrook-Geha's Cornelia stealing the show from Cleopatra, despite the latter's spangled bikini.



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It's a HEADY mix of petulant Bordeaux wines and fine old cognac, with a sparkle to match the one in her eyes. Served ICE COLD after dinner, it creates a WARM atmosphere. Just uncork the little bottle and say "I didn't send a card because..."

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PETITE LIQUEUR
PETIT LANT
MOËT & CHANDON

CONCERTS
Noël Goodwin
RPO/Ashkenazy
Festival Hall

from each instrumental section. Some deeper concern with the relationship between Man and Nature linked Strauss with Mahler, who died four years before Strauss's Alpine excursion was finished, and who left his unfinished Tenth Symphony as a testament to be puzzled over. They were more supportive of each other than has often been suggested, and the Tenth Symphony's long opening Adagio, played separately, gives a view that is inward rather

How to get the best from a band

Stanislaw Skrowaczewski's days as principal conductor of the Halle Orchestra are numbered. It is a pity that he is leaving, as this concert showed, he can inspire his players to heights undreamed of not so long ago.

Perhaps the best thing about Skrowaczewski's conducting is that, although the sound he achieves is a richly polished one, his approach is pleasingly straightforward and honest. So it was, anyway, in Sunday night's performance of Bruckner's Third Symphony, a piece which, like much of Bruckner's work, achieves its own transcendence through dogged labour rather than vainglorious

Stephen Pettitt
Halle/Skrowaczewski
Barbican Hall

posturing. In some readings the composer's struggles are all too obvious, but here Skrowaczewski cut no corners. Those often uncomfortable moments, when climaxes are suddenly cut off and the music starts chugging away all over again, seemed here a natural part of the larger structural plan.

Even the hard-driven outer sections of the scherzo were carefully moulded. The adagio

beforehand swept nobly and affectingly to its apotheosis, while the first and last movements unfolded with an irrepressible might. Skrowaczewski achieved a miraculous balance both between and within each instrumental department.

Not everything was technically perfect. More than once, over-zealous players anticipated entries, but in the context of such an impressive entity it mattered not one jot.

Earlier, Peter Donohoe had been the soloist in Schumann's Piano Concerto, playing with an unexpected lightness of tone that suited this music well.

What Vladimir Ashkenazy and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra discovered for us as they made their picturesque way to the summit of *An Alpine Symphony* and then down again, is that in this work Richard Strauss was no mere pictorial artist. It ended the RPO's series of Strauss programmes as a splendidly wrought symphonic conception.

The sound of around 110 musicians on the platform letting rip in the big climaxes is pretty awesome, and the conductor made the most of it to great effect. But he was also attentive to softer passages along the way, up to and including the oboist's quiet solo contemplation from the summit after the grandeur of reaching it, and he kept the tempo moving as well as drawing a fine response

TIMES DIARY ALAN HAMILTON

Organizers of the Books for Romania appeal, to replace the Bucharest University library destroyed in the Christmas uprising, have been overwhelmed by the generous response, and now have more than 250,000 volumes and journals ready for shipment. Co-ordinator Richard Crampton of the University of Kent tells me that the vast majority of donations are high-quality academic tomes, but they did not refuse a case of Mills and Boon romance from the printers, nor two back copies of *Reader's Digest* from a lady in Glamorgan. The largest single benefactor, however, is Dr Alex Comfort, author of *The Joy of Sex* and *More Joy of Sex* (and many equally respectable academic medical treatises on other subjects, I should add), who has donated no less than seven tonnes of books, by himself and others, the result of a mass clear-out of his house to give himself living room. Comfort's own works caused the appeal directors a momentary *frisson* of concern, destined as they were for a country where contraception was unobtainable under Ceausescu, and abortion a serious offence. All, however, is well. A quiet word with the International Planned Parenthood Federation ensured that last week a lorry set off for Bucharest carrying 40,000 condoms.

A little local difficulty with *glasnost*, I fear. The Hang the Monkey restaurant in Cleveland Street, London W1, planning a month of Russian cuisine for March, had invited the president and director of the Leningrad Academy of Arts — in London for the opening of an exhibition of drawings they have loaned — to lunch today to check the authenticity of the dishes. Lunch, alas, has been cancelled; at the weekend the kitchen caught fire and is temporarily out of action. They were, *say*, I am assured, attempting a *beefsteak flambe* at the time.

Forgive a moment's crowing, but you did read it here first. I reported as long ago as November 28 that Mandela would be released soon, as he had sent out from his Cape Town prison for a raincoat, an item he could not possibly require in detention in the Cape at that time of year. He was not, I noticed, carrying it when he strode through the gates of Victor Verster prison on Sunday, but he is well aware, as weekend viewers of news bulletins will now also be, that it can pour cats and dogs in Soweto in February.

West Germany's biggest daily, *Bild*, which is running a front-page countdown to reunification, now sees only one obstacle in the way — Maggie. "If she has her way," the paper said yesterday, "the London taxi drivers' association, the Soho pigeon breeders' club, the Scotch whisky lobby and the Association for the Support of the Loch Ness Monster would all have to be asked permission first." Oh well, that's it then; have you ever met a pro-German London cabbie?

BARRY FANTONI



"Er, what now?"

With talks resuming in Madrid tomorrow on the possible restoration of full diplomatic relations between Britain and Argentina, I detect some behind-the-scenes pressure in Buenos Aires to have us send the right man for the ambassadorial job. And what he must be, I hear, is Scottish. Eight MPs who visited their country last week were much taken by the widespread perception among Argentines that the Scots really had nothing to do with the Falklands war, and that Tumbledown (which the Scots Guards would claim as a battle honour) was actually taken by the Gurkhas. Lord King of BA, in town last week to reopen the air route from Heathrow, was greeted at a glittering reception with pipes and drums, tartan-clad sword dancers (all of them native-born locals) and copious quantities of Dr Ballantine's golden relaxant from Dumbarton. The burning question asked of the Brits was: why visit their country was when the Caledonian Ball, once a top society occasion, was going to return to the Buenos Aires social calendar. This touching tribute to God's own people will, I suspect, be severely tested when Argentina play Scotland in a World Cup warm-up at Hampden Park next month. Then they'll see what we're really like.

It's an odd feeling to know what you'll be sucking when you're 87. It is both locally odd — how will this tongue feel, then, will it have shrivelled and lost sensation, will it be lolting from side to side, will it be jabbering to itself? How will these teeth feel, will they wobble, will they clack, will they be there at all or have given gummy way to shimmering prostheses? What about these lips, will they be vacantly grinning, crabbily denouncing, lecherously puckering, will they perhaps, as they suck, be attempting simultaneously to whistle a fetching track from 83-year-old Paul McCartney's 233rd golden album? — and less locally odd, which is to say, where will this sucking head be, provided it is not six feet under something? Will it be staring glumly from the barred window of the Bide-A-Wee Sunset Scrapyard? Floating happily

The British have always respected a government that gives them strong defence, but they also expect realism. As communism collapses even in its Soviet heartland, the Tories risk appearing obsessed with the divisive nostrums of the Cold War, or else punch-drunk to the point of inertia by the speed of events.

It would be perverse in the extreme if, after two elections in which defence policy drove floating voters away from Labour, it became an issue which drove them from the Tories. Yet the Conservative Party is reticent about the kind of public debate on the peace dividend that is positively embraced by President Bush. Some of us fear that if we do not take the lead and set the tone, Neil Kinnock will do so, diverting attention from Labour's vote-losing nuclear disarmament policies.

We are besieged by warnings about the new instability caused by the upheavals in the Soviet empire and the likelihood that Gorbachev will fail and fall. So the only safe course, some argue, is to continue spending on defence at current levels. But why? That it is hard to predict

how change will develop does not obviate the need for a reappraisal of the scale (£20 billion a year) and nature of our defence spending.

The right prescription is for Western Europe to remain economically strong through closer integration of the EC, and militarily strong by keeping NATO viable. Inevitably there is uncertainty, but the changes in Europe have lessened, not increased, the risk.

It would be foolish to lose the fruits of victory merely because defence spending at some future date may need to increase, for in the case of a new threat, the pattern of spending would almost certainly have to be different. But this is not to say that the Soviet offensive capability will not be modernized, nor that we will not need our own nuclear deterrent.

Spending on arms has no

Keith Hampson urges cuts to match the diminished threat

Arms bill in need of attack

abstract value. It must relate to strategy based on analysis of the threat. Obviously the nature of the threat has changed. Nato policies have been based on the fear that vast Soviet armies might pour westwards. That is now a less credible proposition. Regardless of the Vienna talks on conventional force reductions, Soviet troops will have to withdraw from the quicksands of Eastern Europe, and the idea that a new generation of Nato short-range nuclear weapons should be targeted on East Germany or Czechoslovakia is no longer acceptable. That chapter is closed.

Our commitment to the German front is the most expensive of our roles. With circumstances in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union so dramatically changed, a rethink of our deployment of men, tanks, aircraft and bases is inevitable, and should begin

immediately. It may be argued that an abrupt reduction in our forces would send the wrong signals to Moscow. On the contrary, our security is intrinsically linked to the Soviets' sense of insecurity. Indicating a reluctance to cut our force levels will increase the anxiety of Soviet generals, and will help to undermine Mr Gorbachev.

Of course an element of caution is needed, but that does not mean we need to retain current levels of spending or the same military posture. Yet, based on the old certainties, the British defence budget is scheduled to rise by £1 billion in each of the next three years.

The situation in Germany no longer allows us to maintain the old posture. For some time the West Germans have resented the scale of Western forces in their country, and although Mrs Thatcher believes that a speedy

reunification of East and West Germany "could destabilize everything", it will be at the top of the agenda in the elections to be held in both East and West Germany this year.

No matter how cautious we may wish to be, the momentum is unstoppable. Trying to maintain the political or defence status quo will stoke the fires of German nationalism.

With a reunified Germany likely to become the Japan of Europe in economic terms, it is time to open our eyes to the real conflict to come, the industrial war between Europe and the Japanese, and our influence in it. Does it make any sense to continue defence spending at 4.3 per cent of GDP, in large part on behalf of Germany (which spends 2.9 per cent of its GDP on defence), when our industrial base so dramatically needs strengthening?

Bernard Levin on a failure by the anti-drink lobby to impose its wishes

Giving the rules a puritan twist

As far as I can recall, I haven't been really drunk since 1948 or thereabouts. But I am no Rechabites; many a glass of fine stuff, the finer the better, has soothed my tonsils and increased my well-being. I gave up spirits almost entirely a long time ago; the end of a long, hard day may be marked by a long, hard Bloody Mary or an aquavit, but it is many years since I tasted gin or whisky. Champagne is practically the only aperitif I touch, and if the food is conducive I can happily drink nothing else throughout a meal. Moreover, when that long, hard day is to precede a pleasant evening, a split of the same precious juice accompanies me to my bath.

Very well; I am neither a total abstainer nor a lush, and the same can be said of most people in this land, whatever their tipple. I am not unaware of the tragedies of which alcohol has been the instrument; a close friend drank himself to death. But it is silly to brand liquor as the cause of alcoholic self-destruction, when far more deep-rooted psychological problems or unbalances are responsible, with drink (and now, of course, drugs) being only the means.

Now, however, this pleasurable and health-giving custom (obviously, I speak of drinking beneficial liquor only, and in moderation) is under assault from a new and singularly repellent quarter. To be sure, in the old days, temperance societies and their like campaigned against drink; their efforts were, I

believe, grounded in the horrors of the 19th century and the gin palaces. But they pressed their case with modesty and charity; there was little or nothing of the Single Issue Fanatic in their work, let alone persecution.

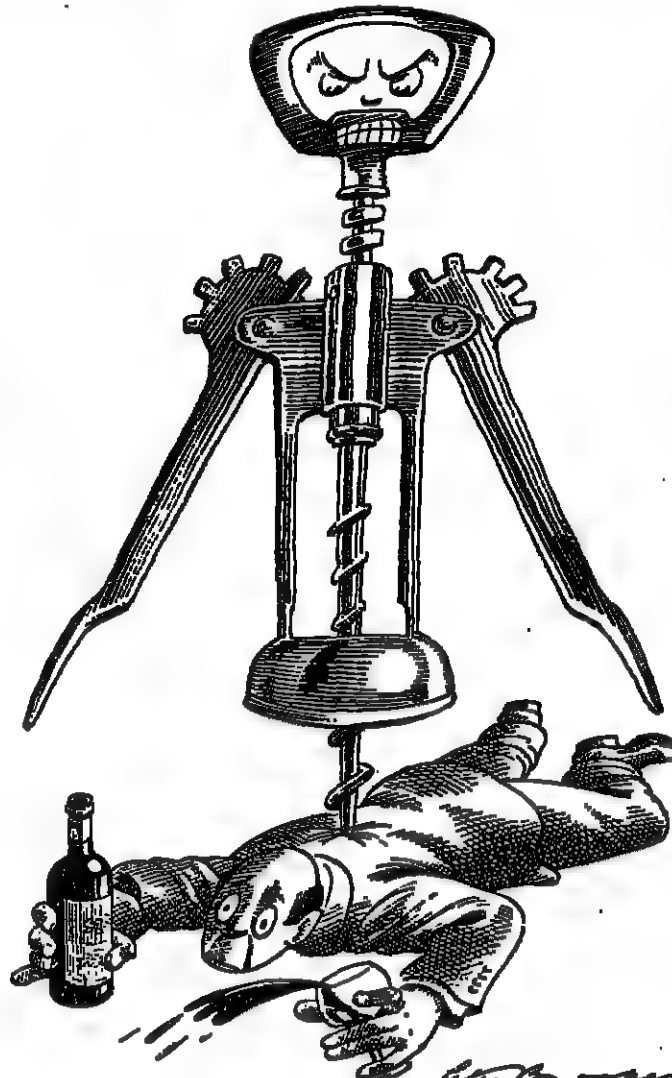
All of a sudden (and it is of a sudden) a new plague has broken out; today's wowsers are not concerned to point to the dangers of excessive drinking, or to urge moderation. No; for them, it is a Cause, and if there is one thing we know about Causes with a Capital Letter, it is that those who espouse them are suffocating in self-righteousness, convinced that to bring nearer The Day, harassment, interference and bullying are indispensable.

Here comes the Greater London Alcohol Advisory Service, whatever that might be, to demand for a start (oh, but not for a finish) that all cinema advertising of liquor should be banned, and that ultimately (I said the start wouldn't be the finish) it should be banned altogether on television as well. It seems, moreover, that the cinema, at least, are giving in with hardly a struggle, so that such advertising is expected to vanish within a year or so. The fact that many cinemas will disappear as well, because the lost advertising revenue will make the difference between profit and loss, does not concern the wowsers; provided their pestilent busybody triumphs, it doesn't matter how many other freedoms are diminished. The spokeswoman for this organization is a Mr Hatter, and

he exhibits the stigmata of the SIF, as I shall demonstrate. The bodies charged with examining advertisements which may have a deleterious effect (on young people, for instance) have recently strengthened their rules; young actors are now not allowed to appear in television advertisements for alcohol, nor may such advertisements suggest that drinking alcohol is a specially manly practice; the new rules even restrict the use of humour to sell drink, presumably because impressionable people may be softened up by jokes into drinking more than they otherwise might. (I must say that between the hectoring of the SIF and the imbecilities of our guardians, there is less and less to choose as the days go by.)

Anyway, the rules have been made even more restrictive, which you might think would have pleased Mr Hatter. Not a bit of it; he utters thus: "We put in 30 complaints to the ASA [Advertising Standards Authority] last year, and on all of them they ruled against us." I said that Mr Hatter would typify the SIF; well, doesn't he? For what is the typical stance of this unattractive breed? It is, surely, a demand that the jury be picked by the accusers; it has plainly not occurred to him that the ASA occurred to him that the ASA may have rejected his complaints because they were without foundation, the advertisements in question being within the rules.

So much the worse for the



rules, says the SIF; they shall be amended to ensure that whatever we want to happen must happen. The obvious analogy is, of course, with the smoking wowsers, but they, at least, have a case; smoking is in itself dangerous. The drinking, in moderation, of good wine or even pure spirit is in itself not dangerous, and indeed used wisely is beneficial.

The Rechabites says it is wrong to drink, and although I reject

his claim, I can see, and even sympathize with, his point. He has, of course, forgotten what the First Miracle was about, which is naughty of him, since he bases his charge on scripture (Jeremiah, 35, 6), but although he wishes that we should all abstain, he does not see it as his duty to drag us into doing so.

Not so the Hatters. And now here comes Mr Derek Rutherford, of the Institute of Alcohol Studies (how many more of

these wowsers' covens are going to spring up before we rise in revolt and get the tar and feathers out of the cupboard?), who looks like joining his brother Hatter in the matter of packing the jury. He wants advertising controlled by a body set up by the Government and stuffed with "members of the health lobby".

The wowsers will deny it, but what they are really after is Prohibition, just as the smoking fanatics will not cease until the manufacture, sale and use of tobacco has been made illegal. But both of them start and finish at the same point; they are quite sure that they know what is good for us and what is bad for us. The fact that we dare to say that in our judgement they may be wrong in their assessment of us only inflames their certainty, and strengthens their determination to call us all to heel.

I am a bachelor, but I am close to many children. I would never offer one of them a cigarette, and would gently ("gently" — the wowsers should look the word up in a dictionary, for they have certainly not encountered it before) try to stop them smoking if they have started. But I deem it nothing less than a duty to introduce them to good wine, which is one of the noblest and sweetest pleasures in life, and I am happy to say that one of the youngest has become something of a connoisseur of first-class champagne. He takes it in sips only, of course, for I stress again that moderation is an essential ingredient in drinking; but I hope and trust that he will learn more about wine as he grows older, and will appreciate it as one of nature's greatest gifts. Meanwhile, the wowsers sow teeth and watch armed men spring up. Let us resolve to arm ourselves in turn, and do battle with those who hate pleasure, but have even more terribly the thought of those who enjoy it. Mud in their eye!

Thought for Today: your bias is so blatant

Woodrow Wyatt urges the BBC to change its radio breakfast crew

The *Daily Express* of February 3 carried an article based on a 36-page report from the Media Monitoring Unit, which had examined the BBC *Today* programme for impartiality over a two-week period in January. The study found that more Conservative than Labour supporters were interviewed on *Today*, including a number of Conservative MPs strongly opposed to important aspects of government policy.

Labour was rarely asked to explain and defend its policies. Anti-government spokesmen were generally given a gentle ride. Government spokesmen were usually violently challenged, up to insolent insult. This approach backfired on January 19 when Kenneth Baker, the Conservative party chairman, robustly turned the tables following a *Today* report one-sided in its condemnation of the community charge.

A fairly regular listener to *Today*, I sent the BBC 12 basic questions last Tuesday. Some were about the political predilections and voting habits of the producers and the four presenters, Brian Redhead, Sue MacGregor, John Humphrys and Peter Hobday. The reaction was

horror at such outrageous questions to the BBC and its fearless *Today* investigators, who insist on answers to questions of every kind on their programme. "We do not want to know their private political convictions," the BBC formally replied.

But the information is germane in enabling listeners to know by what viewpoint the supposedly impartial *Today* is steered and whether it assumes that attacking the Government more vigorously than the Opposition is a normal middle-of-the-road stance.

When we were BBC political commentators there was no concealment of the political leanings of Robin Day (Liberal), Geoffrey Johnson-Smith and Chris Chataway (Conservative), Christopher Mayhew and myself (Labour). We all tried, rather successfully, to be unbiased, but viewers or listeners knew where our hearts were.

In the US, commentators on current affairs in the most influential media believe in openness. They do not denounce questions about their private political convictions as an inva-

sion of privacy. The answers of 238 of them are recorded in *The Media Elite*, published in America in 1986.

In 1964, 94 per cent voted for the Democratic candidate in the presidential election. In 1968, 87 per cent. In 1972, 81 per cent, and in 1976 the same. From later investigations the book's authors conclude that the anti-Republican feelings of those commenting in the press, television and radio are mounting.

I assume that the left-of-centre ethos is similar here, although the BBC, for one, wishes to keep it secret while arrogating to itself the duty of exposure in every area but its own. The political standing of Brian Redhead, the leading figure of the *Today* programme, is easily deduced.

He joined the strongly anti-Conservative *Manchester Guardian* in 1954 and progressed from features editor to assistant editor, and was northern editor of *The Guardian* from 1965 to 1969. He was editor of its sister paper, the *Manchester Evening News*, from 1969 to 1975, when he joined the *Today* programme. Redhead probably equates

being anti-Thatcher with a normal, civilized, balanced approach. I would be delighted to hear from the rest if they voted other than for an anti-Conservative party in the last two elections and I am amazed at their timid reticence.

My view is that the *Today* programme provides a steady drip-drip diet of anti-government propaganda while attempting to mask it as the objective reporting and comment enjoined in the guidelines sent me by the BBC. One is a jolly joke: "Scripts and questions in interviews should not state or imply relevant personal opinions" but "They can include subjective comments..."

Last Wednesday, *Today* three times billed as one of the most significant news items of the day a report by the Money Advice Funding Working Party chaired by Lord Ezra without revealing that he is a leading anti-government spokesman in the Lords. With no challenge, *Today* retailed the information that about half a million households are in some financial difficulty as a result of what the report calls

"the credit explosion" under this government. The implication was clear: that the climate created by the Government encourages overspending. The repeated interview with Lord Ezra was inordinately long.

The Ezra report was dismissed in a few lines without a headline on page three of *The Times* and dealt with in a few inches in the bottom left-hand corner of page 25 of *The Independent*.

You can guess why *Today* gave this unimportant report so much prominence. And why yesterday morning, just before the Saunders trial, *Today* allowed an ex-policeman to muse, unchallenged, that the Government is less than serious in rooting out financial wrongdoing because its paymasters are in the City. So the anti-government propaganda goes on, sometimes blatant, sometimes subtle, often because attacking the Government is natural and normal to the presenters, who probably do it unconsciously as well as consciously.

Today's bias is serious because, according to the BBC, it has a "daily reach" of six million

listeners. Day after day it is anti-government, with an occasional, often gentle, rap on the knuckles for Labour. It must have an insidious effect on its audience, most of whom still believe the BBC is concerned only with the truth and do not have the means to investigate its dodgy "facts" and unjustified assumptions.

The editor and three of the presenters have each been on *Today* for roughly three years, which is quite long enough. Brian Redhead is in his fifteenth year, which is so long that the barnacles of his political emotions cannot now be removed.

The BBC's chief press officer told me pompously: "The BBC do not vet staff." He repeated this somewhat testily after I pointed out to him that the BBC had done it for years with the help of a brigadier from MI5. (see DG by Alasdair Milne, page 147). If the BBC could do that, it should care about the political ambience of the makers of *Today*.

In 1941 Brian Redhead played the clarinet on *Children's Hour*. Removing him to a five-year stint on something similar is overdue and not exactly exile to Siberia. *Today* needs a complete change of bowling.

Preserving me in mint condition



ALAN COREN

on some sunsoaked Marian canal, courtesy of Cook's interplanetary Winter Breaks? Craving for a glimpse of the scampish single which will thwart Latvia of England's follow-on? Thronging loyally in Downing Street, to express its personal good wishes to its Prime Minister on the occasion of her 100th birthday?

Indeed, might this head, wherever it is, be wondering nervously whether its recent run-of-the-mill transplant means that it has acquired a new body, or that the body has acquired a new head, and what the answer implies vis-à-vis its pension entitlements? We can confidently — and perhaps fortunately — answer none

of this. The future is a foreign country, they will do things differently there. All we can be sure of is what the head will be sucking in 2026: if it is sucking anything it will be sucking a Trebor Extra Strong Mint.

We know this because of the generosity of Mr Roger Munby. And the possibility that that generosity may contain an element of shrewdness must be allowed to detract not one whit from it, since Mr Munby is Trebor's Executive Director of Marketing, and he would be untrue to his lights — and we should all think the worse of him — if he did not executive-direct the market at every conceivable

opportunity. And at the odd inconceivable one, too.

On December 12, 1989, you may recall, I occupied this space by running about intemperately and banging on its ferret-rules

walls to the effect that my new navy overcoat had been nicked from a cloakroom peg in the Garrick Club, and I speculated as to the kind of swine who might have pulled such a stroke — because December 12 was in the days before we had heard about the Garrick Mafia, and if I had known then what we all know now, I would have kept my trap shut (indeed, this seems as good a time as any to apologize. Keep the coat, *paysano*, I hope it's nice and warm, and if it isn't roomy enough under the arms to accommodate professional bulges, send the alteration bill to me.)

I heard nothing more — you will say luckily — until last week,

when a small box, forwarded by this newspaper, arrived at my door. It did not, however, contain an overcoat. It contained 36 rolls of Trebor Extra Strong Mints, and a letter in which, after many a solicitous murmur, Mr Munby concluded: "... although I cannot stretch to a replacement cashmere coat, I can at least provide some warming comfort in the deep winter's chill."

How could he have guessed what he had done? It is not his fault — even Wordsworth, than whom no one could have been more of a stranger to executive market-directing, believed the best portions of a good man's life were the little, nameless, un-

remembered acts of kindness and of love, remaining utterly oblivious to how much they can screw their hapless recipients up.

For I am funny about mints. I suck exactly one tube a year. I know this, because I invariably buy a tube at Christmas, when I tend not only to drink more uninterrupted than normal, but also to breathe on more people, including policemen, more frequently. By New Year's Day, there are usually two mints left in the packet, which collect fluff for a month or so before getting summarily eaten in a sort of general tidying-up of the pockets.

So when I look, as I look now, at Mr Munby's gift, I see the next 36 years. Let J. Alfred Prufrock measure out his life in coffee-spoons, mints are my meter. One by one, the rolls will go, as Yule follows Yule, and which, I wonder, will run out first, the box or I?



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

TOWARDS A NEW ENTENTE?

The Soviet attitude to the accelerating reunification of Germany swims into focus one day and out again the next. This uncertainty is not reassuring but it ought to prompt Nato countries to pull together their own consensus on an issue which has provoked so much division in history.

There is wide agreement that stability and security in Europe should be discussed under the framework of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), which embraces most of the states in both Western and Eastern Europe. This unexceptional suggestion has distracted attention from the Western organization which most plainly requires it. Nato. The alliance's priorities have so far been the containment of the Warsaw Pact, the containment of German power in a multilateral alliance and the preservation of the American link to Europe. Its membership represents the widest range of democratic states on both sides of the Atlantic which can be combined with the military force (mostly American) to defend the common values at the heart of the alliance. To talk, as many now do, of Nato becoming a "more political" organization than it has been in the past is therefore misleading. It has from its formation been a political organization.

The Warsaw Pact may dissolve, but prudent military insurance against Soviet military power will remain necessary while the Soviet Union remains the military giant that it has become. Nato, if Germans so decide, can play a role in linking West Germany or a reunified Germany to its partners. Retention of an American link — at a lower military level — remains necessary as a foundation of democratic security in Europe.

Lower-level residual defence requires new tactics and technology. Should a Nato strategy for a new generation take account of a new generation of countries which may deploy missiles with nuclear or chemical warheads? If

Nato exists to pool resources in the defence of freedom, can additional members join and what criteria should they meet? By what principles should the new burdens be distributed in the light of both force cuts and the reductions in American forces stationed in Europe?

The last question holds a particular importance for Britain. If the Soviet Union can be persuaded to accept a reunified Germany in Nato, there will still be political pressure in Germany for the shrinkage or removal of the Nato presence. Since US forces will reduce, more of the future European defence will pivot on the nuclear powers, Britain and France. The two countries of the old entente have to look forward to altered relationships with the US and with each other. It seems likely that if there are to be foreign troops on German soil, they will be more acceptable if they are Europeans. That, in effect, means forces organized round a Franco-British core. Effecting such changes also pre-supposes that the long-standing French suspicion of Nato, eroding of late, can be overcome. In this diplomacy, Britain would find a natural role as broker.

Or it would if its diplomacy and utterances showed some sense of what the European strategic future could be. At present, the Government still finds difficulty in achieving a consistent line on German reunification. At the end of a week in which its tone of voice sounded more friendly, the Prime Minister suggested that international agreements could be used to delay reunification.

This failed to establish a case for international intervention while sounding a grudging and reluctant note about the inevitable. The effect of this veering is to make Britain's interests harder to advance and defend in the multilateral negotiations to come. In the establishment of a security system for the next century, Britain — as it always has — needs allies.

LONG LIVE THE GENERAL LINE

In the immediate aftermath of the Tiananmen Square massacre, China's Prime Minister, Mr Li Peng, indicated that if the West made life difficult, China would respond by drawing closer to the Soviet Union. That strategy, clearly designed to alarm the West, never looked terribly convincing.

It consorted ill with President Gorbachev's own agenda, which would not have been well served by policies risking confrontation with the West; and it discounted the need shared by both countries for Western technology. Despite the Sino-Soviet thaw, confirmed by President Gorbachev's visit to Peking the previous month, China seemed unlikely to revert to the enthusiasms of the "learn from the Soviet Union" campaigns of the 1950s.

Events beyond the Great Wall, first in Eastern Europe and then in the Soviet Union itself, have ruled out for Peking the option of playing the Russian card. The priority for its nervous leadership is now to ensure that China's people learn as little as possible from the Soviet Union.

After days of complete silence, the *Peking Daily* responded to last week's political earthquake in Moscow with an editorial insisting that without the strong leadership of the Communist Party, "the nation would be split" by turmoil and wars. But the publication on the same day of a six-week-old internal party document on "multi-party co-operation" suggests that even Peking's hardliners have begun to concede that they must lend a more attractive public gloss to the task of "building socialism with Chinese characteristics".

The document is hardly revolutionary. It reaffirms the Communist Party's role as "the core of leadership in the cause of socialism" and rejects any question of a multi-party system of the kind practised in Western capitalist countries.

Any political organization which opposes "the four cardinal principles" — the party's leading role, the people's "democratic dictator-

ship", socialism, and Marxist-Leninist-Mao Tse-tung thought — must, it says, be banned as soon as discovered. But it also lays new emphasis on the claim that China's is not the one-party system of other socialist countries. The eight "democratic parties", wholly subservient ghosts which are carry-overs from before the 1949 revolution are to be given a more prominent role in party affairs, and some of their leaders even offered senior posts.

The reality is purges which have intensified since last June and involved the jailing, according to a report by Asia Watch last week, of between 10,000 and 30,000 "ordinary workers". A *People's Daily* editorial last month stating that party cadres should be selected according to their "loyalty to Marxism" and that those who "trim their sails according to the political wind" should be dismissed, recalls the Cultural Revolution's slogan, "better Red than expert".

The policy document also, however, indicates that repression has failed to eradicate dissent. The leadership evidently believes that the battle between truth, defined as those who unquestioningly uphold the party's ideological line, and "counter-revolutionary conspiracy", is far from convincingly won. In the effort to restore political orthodoxy, and to reassert the centre's control over the provinces, economic reforms have been reversed, with a return to the central allocation of resources and close party direction of economic life. The "open door" to foreign investment opens on an environment inimical to the market.

In present circumstances, the World Bank's recent decision, with US encouragement, to resume lending to China, looks questionable. Such conciliatory gestures at this stage, by strengthening the hand of those who argue that China can repress its reformers and intellectuals with impunity, might usher in the very instability which they were intended to forestall.

HOMOSEXUAL POLITICS

The Church of England and the Labour Party are currently both suffering from sexual embarrassment. Both of them have a constituency which actively lobbies for homosexual equality, causing discomfort to their leaders who know the issue is a pew-emptier or a vote-loser, as well as an awkward question on its own merits.

Labour Party conferences have passed demands for the lowering of the age of consent for homosexuals so often that it has become almost a reflex. Labour's policy at the next election, however, is likely to be no policy at all, but simply the offer of a free vote in Parliament.

The Labour leadership will be blamed by the gay rights lobby for treating it as an open question — a suitable subject for a free vote — instead of campaigning unequivocally in favour of homosexual equality. But a decision by Parliament to lower to 16 the age at which homosexual intercourse ceases to be criminal would never be easy to reverse. It would signify that society had finally adopted the view that homosexuality and heterosexuality should be regarded in all respects as equal. And that is still far from true.

There are several good reasons why the age of consent should be left as it is, at 21. The sexual development of male adolescents goes through several stages sometimes including, particularly in an all-male environment such as a boarding school, a homosexual stage. But a few people would regard that as a satisfactory completion of the process.

A law against under-age sexual behaviour, whether homosexual or heterosexual, does have a positive symbolic influence in such cases. Where the people concerned are of similar age, it needs to be applied with discretion and sensitivity. Where it involves the sexual exploitation of youth by a much older person, however, the full sanction of the criminal law is legitimate. In the extreme case, that of young male prostitutes, the advantage

of the present law is that, unlike female prostitution, it covers the client as well as the prostitute. This is a form of discouragement that is clearly to the public good, not least in the light of the threat from Aids. This is not the time to be seen to be relaxing vigilance against such a scourge.

While the Labour Party proposal for a free vote is some improvement on conference policy, the position currently occupied by the bishops of the Church of England makes them look a trifle foolish. The House of Bishops is confronted with the leak of a report it commissioned several years ago, which in spite of a nominal even-handedness in fact presses the arguments for accepting homosexual behaviour by church members and clergymen.

The commissioning of a report to advise them on their pastoral practice was naive if well-intentioned, but the Church of England at large was surely entitled to know what advice they received, especially as the General Synod has a declared policy on homosexuality. The synod, in effect, called it sinful. The report should have been published and debated as soon as it was ready, and if it did not comply with the policy to which the bishops themselves are committed, disowned. Instead the bishops have kept the report alive, but tried to hide it in the episcopal closet.

In view of the report's general pro-homosexual tenor, the bishops are bound to be suspected of looking for a way round the resolutions the synod passed on homosexuality in 1987, even to the extent of ordaining practising homosexuals. The Church is bound to conclude that the bishops do not trust it.

The bishops have left themselves open to attack for seeming to treat the issue as an open question — needing more study, more reports — instead of taking a firm position against it, as the synod decided they should. If this is not their intention, the sooner they say so the better.

Manpower needs in the Services

From Captain H. H. Bracken, RN (retd.)

Sir, Like many other of your correspondents, Major-General Strawson (February 7) bases his ideas about the future of the Armed Forces on the experiences of the past rather than a realistic assessment of what lies ahead.

Up to 1985 there was a constant increase in the number of recruitable men (and women) in the 16-24 age group. Since then there has been a sharp downturn and by the year 2000 there will have been a reduction of 24 per cent. Furthermore, there will be fierce competition from other employers for this limited supply.

The reduction in the Gibraltar garrison which he deplored was occasioned as much by shortage of manpower as by any other consideration. As regards the use of overseas bases to improve the quality of Army life, how many of them will be needed for strategic reasons in the future in the changing world situation, and in any event Hong Kong will have disappeared as a base by 1997.

May I add that the same trend is apparent in varying degrees throughout Nato. The decline in West Germany is 40 per cent (and 17 per cent in East Germany), 30 per cent in the Netherlands, 30 per cent in Italy, 15 per cent in France, etc. The truth is that even if the political situation had not undergone such a dramatic change, manpower shortages would have forced a measure of disarmament since, even in countries which have conscription, about 50 per cent of their manpower are volunteers.

It is of interest that in Eastern Europe and the USSR the trend is in the opposite direction — a matter of considerable significance both within and outside purely military considerations. Yours faithfully, H. H. BRACKEN (Director of Manning, Admiralty, 1962-64), The Old House, Groombridge, East Sussex, February 10.

Consumer protection

From Mr Michael Shersby, MP for Uxbridge (Conservative)

Sir, I write as one of the several Conservative sponsors of Martyn Jones's Consumer Guarantees Bill to deny the suggestion in Jack Straw's article, "Buyer beware: the Tories are against you" (February 5), that there is widespread hostility to the Bill amongst Conservative MPs.

It was a former Minister of State for Consumer Affairs, Baroness Oppenheim-Barnes, who, as chairman of the National Consumer Council, was responsible for instigating and developing this reform. But for the support of 18 Conservative MPs and nine from minority parties the Bill would not have received its second reading.

The reservations expressed by the Minister for Consumer Affairs about parts of the proposed consumer guarantees are, I believe, mistaken. A Bill which has the support of leading manufacturers of quality goods such as Hotpoint and Volvo and of retailers such as Argos, Comet, the Co-op, and the Retail Consortium, should have the Government's endorsement so as to encourage other businesses to raise their standards.

Yours faithfully, MICHAEL SHERSBY, Member of Commons, February 6.

Food for thought

From Mr David H. Holder

Sir, As a businessman heavily involved in new projects in the USSR, I was particularly attracted to your report (February 1) on the opening of the Moscow McDonald's eating house.

The cost of a ticket for seat no. 10 in stalls box no. 8 at the Bolshoi theatre on January 10 — a superb seat for a magnificent evening's entertainment — was 2 roubles, 50 kopeks.

Your report gives the price of a beefburger as 3 roubles, 75 kopeks, so the residents of Moscow now have a choice. What would we give for such a choice?

Yours sincerely, DAVID HOLDER, Collierton, Upper Moulsham, Chelmsford, Essex, February 6.

Motor reading

From Mr Barrie Luskombe

Sir, We are sorry we had to insist on a "motor" in a recent letter to the home of Mr Banks (January 26).

For motor reading and service we have tried to contact Mr Banks a total of 13 times in the past six months. The service contract for his address is with the London Borough of Islington; at our request they also tried to contact Mr Banks.

Letters and other communications were sent to Mr Banks, and on at least four occasions our motor reader, or service engineer, called at his address and there was no answer.

Rottweiler defence

From Mr L. P. Eldsen

Sir, Three children died in the United Kingdom in the first nine months of 1989 as a result of being attacked by a dog. One of these was Kellie Lynch; another died after an attack by a breed which I am certain was not a Rottweiler, Doberman, or pit bull terrier, the breeds listed by Bernard Levin (January 29) as being unfit to share the lives of human beings.

Furthermore, in the 10 years preceding 1989 12 people, according to figures supplied by the Office of Population Censuses and

Early struggles in the schoolroom

From Mr Richard Stanton

Sir, Angela Rumbold's flirtation (report, February 9) with the Danish practice of teachers staying with a class throughout their primary years will, I'm sure, cause surprise in the staffrooms; not because the underlying concepts of stability and security are alien to primary teachers — indeed, many schools and teachers consider these very carefully and, when appropriate, do encourage prolonged association between a class and a particular teacher.

Rather, the surprise will result from an awareness of the contradiction between this concern for relationships and the dominant effects of most of the Government's educational reforms.

Positive pupil-teacher relationships have been a hallmark of primary schools in Britain. However, the current pressure on teachers to "fit everything in" whilst completing some 900 standard assessments, in just the three core subjects, is reducing the time for pastoral work in primary classrooms.

As teachers think of the publication of results and the resultant league tables of schools there is little encouragement to focus on individual non-academic needs and experiences.

The Government has presided over a serious primary-teacher shortage in the inner-city areas. It is not uncommon in many schools for teachers to change during a term and frequent that they change during the year, or that children spend periods of time without a regular teacher. And yet it has been almost impossible to get the Government to admit that the problem exists.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD STANTON (Principal Officer, Primary/Middle Education), National Union of Teachers, Hamilton House, Mableton Place, WCI, February 12.

From the Chairman of Mensa

Sir, Your account (February 6) of the report of the Senior Chief Inspector of Schools confirms the experience of this foundation. Less able children, especially, are badly taught and under-challenged. But the failure to bring out the potential of the most able children may be even more damaging to the national interest, though less noticeable.

We have identified over 800 cognitively outstanding children in the last year alone. Many are well provided for, but many are abysmally under-challenged. The most serious problem appears to

be at the primary level. Any child's attitude towards education seems to be almost irreversibly fixed at this period.

Indiscriminate education in mixed-ability schools and classes, the discouragement of selection for excellence (labelled "creaming off") in about nearly 18,000 sub-standard primary schools that we now hear about, must have consequences for the promising children in them as well as for the average ones. At such schools very large numbers of children who are capable of the higher education that the nation crucially needs them to have are unlikely to be motivated towards it or qualify for it.

The Government's welcome reforms are bound to take a very long time to remedy such a serious deterioration, as many teachers are saying. I strongly recommend a vigorous return to the fast-track schemes of selection that were once normal here and still are in many successful countries. If only as an emergency measure, let us at least identify the most educable children and give them a chance to contribute as they can and should. Yours etc, VICTOR SEREBRIAKOFF, Chairman, Mensa Foundation for Gifted Children, Mensa House, St John's Square, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.

From Mr Norman Windsor

Sir, Before considering her Majesty's Inspectors' annual report on schools can we raise half an eyebrow about the quality and credibility of the inspectors themselves?

Having accepted the "play-way" premise of the Plowden report some 30 years ago, they have subsequently presided over declining educational standards, culminating in the Government's imposition of a national curriculum. During this period of decline the only opposition to be heard was from the brave authors of the notorious "Black Papers".

As a young primary school teacher, I remember being advised that dictation was giving children a raw deal. Isn't it possible that the discipline of having to look closely at the structure of words might be a useful skill not unrelated to the art of scientific investigation? Do we still think that the nation's scientific future is completely dependent on the provision of staff and scales in the infant class? Yours faithfully, NORMAN WINDSOR, 5 Wexford Road, Wandsworth Common, SW12, February 10.

Student grants plan

From Sir Edward Parkes

Sir, Readers of your report, "MacGregor rejects academics' student loan plan" (February 12), may be confused as to what it is exactly that the vice-chancellors are suggesting.

Their proposal remains, as it has done since the publication of the White Paper, that all students should be eligible for a full grant without assessment of parental means. No part of this would be a loan. The cost would be covered by a contribution levied through the tax system on graduates who had earlier received the non-

means-tested grant. This contribution would be related to the graduates' income and not the amount received in grant.

Mr MacGregor's letter to me seems to be based on a misapprehension. His detailed objections to individual debt collection through the National Insurance system are not relevant to our scheme, which is for an income, not debt-related contribution. Yours faithfully, EDWARD PARKES (Chairman), Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Universities of the United Kingdom, 29 Tavistock Square, WCI, February 12.

Control of tradesmen

From the Master of the Plumbers' Company

Sir, The problem of the "cowboy" plumber, to which the Chief Executive of the Institute of Plumbing (February 8) refers, is by no means new. Between 1892 and 1903 this company promoted no fewer than eight Bills in Parliament for the registration of plumbers, none of which became law. A further Bill, presented as recently as 1965, also failed.

It is as clear today as it was a century ago that Government action is urgently needed. Contamination of the mains water supply by faulty plumbing has already been canvassed as an example of a generally poor standard; an even more obvious example is the fact that only about one cover is sold for every 100 water tanks supplied to domestic properties. I remain, Sir, your obedient servant, M. G. WAYMAN, Master, The Worshipful Company of Plumbers, 21 Fleet Street, EC4, February 8.

Letters and other communications were sent to Mr Banks, and on at least four occasions our motor reader, or service engineer, called at his address and there was no answer.

Saving nature north and south

From the Director General, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Sir, The views expressed by Lord Campbell of Croy (January 27) help to clarify the decision-making process over the environment in Scotland. It is indeed the Secretary of State for Scotland who decides environmental and planning matters. It was he who authorised peat-digging at Dutch Moss, Islay, threatening the wintering grounds of the rare Greenland white-fronted goose. It was his Scottish Office that sanctioned destruction of the Flow Country peatlands through inappropriate conifer afforestation.

It was the Scottish Office that gave planning permission for a pipeline fabrication yard at Morrich More, Ross and Cromarty, threatening an estuary which is of international importance for wild birds. Many other areas of national and international importance for wildlife have suffered at the hands of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

In contrast, it was the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with his UK-side responsibilities, who closed the tax-loophole incentives for Flow Country forestry. It is only by having a Great Britain overview of our natural environment that the Nature Conservancy Council has been able to influence conservation in Scotland. That is why the RSPB opposes the Government's proposals to hand over NCC to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales.

The Government has responded to our concerns by proposing a new joint committee to provide the Great Britain overview. We do not consider the national interests of conservation unless it is provided with a) statutory powers to direct nature conservation priorities in England, Scotland, and Wales; b) a budget which is independent from the three country agencies; and c) a full complement of policy and scientific staff.

The RSPB is not opposed to the reorganisation of NCC or the federalisation of its responsibilities. But we do want to ensure that nature conservation is delivered as effectively in Caithness as in Cornwall. Yours faithfully, IAN PREST, Director General, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, The Lodge, Sandy, Bedfordshire, February 5.

Legal language

From the Principal Clerk of the Judicial Office

Sir, Mr C. N. Beattie, QC, (February 8) says that, in his last case before the House of Lords, he omitted the words "humble" and "your petitioner will ever pray" from the petition of appeal. The case to which he refers must, I think, be *Bird and others v. The Commissioners of Inland Revenue*, where Mr Beattie appeared for the appellants and where judgment was delivered in May, 1988.

I do not, of course, know in what form the petition left Mr Beattie's chambers, but I can vouch for the fact that it was presented to the House with all the required phrases, "humble" and all. Perhaps Mr Beattie's solicitors corrected the document before presentation.

Mr Beattie is also wrong to deny that the "humble language" is mandatory. The formulae with which petitions should begin and end are laid down by the "Directions as to Procedure" and although Mr Beattie may be right to say that the omission of certain words would not cause the sices to fall, this has yet to be put to the test.

Yours faithfully, JAMES VALLANCE WHITE, Principal Clerk, Judicial Office, House of Lords, February 8.

From Miss Penelope E. Morgan

Sir, As a more disarming expression of good will is recorded in letters from petitioners to the Mayor of Hereford about 1661. They promised to "invoke the Almighty for your worships External, Internal and Eternal happiness, etc." Yours faithfully, PENELOPE E. MORGAN, 6 The Cloisters, Cathedral Close, Hereford, February 5.

Unlikely skirl

From Mr M. H. M. Garton

Sir, Mrs Jack (February 9) was surprised to hear the bagpipes being practised above Crans Montana. My wife and I enjoyed their familiar sound far from home when we heard them being played at Paraguay's Caledonian Ball in Assunção in 1974. The piper, again, was not a Scot, but Argentine, imported from Buenos Aires.

Equally entertaining were the evenings spent over the previous months teaching Paraguayans to dance Sootish reels. Yours faithfully, M. H. M. GARTON, The Old Vicarage, Sulgrave, Banbury, Oxfordshire, February 9.

From Mr Peter Dimond

Sir, I once had to examine a music candidate offering the bagpipes in the front room of a small house. Yours faithfully, PETER DIMOND, The Cottage, Claycastle Lane, Haselbury Pucknett, Crewkerne, Somerset, February 9.

Reporting trade union affairs for *The Times*

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was sympathetic to the union cause but highly critical of union shortcomings, though employers, too, received their share of the blame for industrial difficulties.

Eric Wigham, CBE, who died on February 10, aged 85, was true gentleman of the press. He was Labour Correspondent of *The Times* for almost a quarter of a century and has to be counted among the most distinguished occupants of that post. After his retirement in 1969 he continued to write perceptive features on labour relations for the Business Section until the mid-1970s.

He reported trade union affairs, starting on *The Manchester Guardian* immediately after the war, for nearly 30 years. He was without baffle, malice or trickery and was widely respected throughout the Labour movement.

Wigham was one of the best listeners in the business and prided himself on being a conversationalist. He preferred to puff his pipe and contemplate. It was characteristic that had it not for advantages, Union leaders who were telephoned found themselves disclosing far more than they intended simply to fill in the prolonged pauses between his pertinent questions.

Eric Wigham was the son of an Irish father and Yorkshire mother who were Quaker missionaries. He was born in Chungking, China, on October 8, 1904, and although he never returned there he remained especially fond of Chinese food. He attended Quaker boarding schools, took a degree at Birmingham University and in 1925 became a junior reporter in Birmingham, England. Two

During The Second World War he was a war correspondent for *The Observer*. Before the war he had spent most of his time as a reporter for the *Manchester Evening News*.

His first book, *Trade Unions*, was a text book for Oxford University Press. His second, *What's Wrong With The Unions* (Penguin, 1961)

was sympathetic to the union cause but highly critical of union shortcomings, though employers, too, received their share of the blame for industrial difficulties.

Although he recognized in later years that few of his proposals were implemented, he was never cynical. He remained a constructive critic. His sagacity was recognized when he was appointed to be a member of Lord Donovan's Royal Commission on Trade Unions and Employers' Associations, which reported in 1968.

He was a non-active member of the Labour Party, then a founder member of the SDP, but he became disillusioned by the break-up of the SDP-Liberal Alliance. After his retirement he selflessly nursed his wife for some years before her death.

Prior to his death he was in his customary good humour and apparently in good health but collapsed while out walking near his home in Kent.

He leaves one daughter, Judith, who lives in America where he happily spent Christmas and the New Year.

Challenging the supremacy of the zip fastener

Georges de Mestral, who devised the Velcro cling fastening, which has provided a cheap alternative to many of the functions performed by the zip (itself invented by his fellow Swiss, Simon Frey) has died at Commugny, near Geneva. He was 82.

He first conceived the idea during the Second World War, but it took many more years before Velcro became a practical proposition, and the inventor thereafter had the galling experience of seeing his creation taken up by manufacturers outside Europe and produced much more cheaply than he could.

De Mestral, who came from one of the oldest-established families in the Canton of Vaud, was hunting near his home one day in 1941 when

he became intrigued at the tenacity with which the burrs of the woodcock weed stuck to clothing.

When Dr. Mestral examined their structure under a microscope it became clear to him that the principle could be duplicated with man-made materials. Thus the concept of Velcro, in which burr-like hooks adhere to a facing surface of nylon mesh, was born.

Nevertheless, it took him a further 14 years to perfect the idea, so that it could be patented.

Commercialization proper started in the late 1950s, and the new fastening had immense success. It was essential in children's clothing, where its instant adhesion and quick release

properties made it an attractive alternative to zips and buttons, especially for mothers struggling with squirming offspring.

Velcro also came into its own in lightweight summer raincoats and anoraks where buttons and button holes create a ready-made weak patch for tears to start from. NASA, too, perceived its qualities, and Velcro was used to fix objects inside the cabin of the Apollo spacecraft which took Neil Armstrong and his companions to the moon.

Velcro did not, however, make de Mestral a multi-millionaire. After passing into the public domain in the 1960s, it was manufactured and sold cheaply in Hong Kong, and production at de Mestral's own factory.

Velcro[®], at Aubonne, experienced stiff competition. The experience made him a strong advocate of more effective patent protection.

He began his career as an inventor by building an aircraft at the age of 15, followed by a turbine, gear wheels, the first plastic cartridges and various toys — all before starting to study hydraulics at the Lausanne Polytechnic.

In 1978, de Mestral was made a member of honour of the Swiss Society of Engineers and Architects.

More of an inventor than a businessman, he continued to produce original ideas, including, most recently, an apparatus stripper and a new type of ski-cushion for his sons. Henri[®] invented an anti-slip material for ski-suits.

A distant beacon or a light next door?

The ancient astronomers of Greece had an idea where the lights they saw in the sky were dim bodies close by, and brighter ones a long way away. For one particular kind of object, comets, modern astronomers are not so sure. In the January 10 issue of the *Astronomy Journal* there are two sophisticated papers that try, and fail, to determine whether comets known as gamma-ray comets come from objects that are close to the sun, or as distant as quasars. Some two hundred gamma ray comets are now known; they are sporadic examples of gamma-rays, which are like X-rays of greater energy, and that is all that is known.

The one useful fact is that the comets are scattered at random across the sky. This rules out the possibility, for instance, that they come from a particular galaxy, which are known to be distributed unevenly, in small groups.

But if gamma-rays, they have too far to travel to be able to think of an object as a quasar producing gamma rays, and switch on in seconds. Most astrophysicists therefore like the burst to come from neutrons, remnants of ordinary globes of gas occasionally smashed at high speeds together, a sudden flash produced.

Bohdan Paczynski at Princeton University, and Dieter M. Epstein and Stan Woosley at Los Alamos, explain this explanation

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neutron star distribution is like. If stars, if they are magnetized and are better known as pulsars, fall into two groups: some are sedentary, and move around only along with the rest of the disk; a notable fraction have acquired very high velocities, and are propelled them to considerable distances above and below the disk.

Epstein assumes that most neutron stars are like the slow-moving pulsars, in his model, gamma-ray bursts are very close to us. But he and Epstein and Woosley make the assumption that there must be some odd about the neutron stars that produce gamma-ray bursts, and take numerous more distant high-energy pulsars as being representative of gamma-ray bursts. Their bursts are more distant, and thus more energetic than Paczynski's.

It would seem also that the bursts cannot be coming from our own Galaxy because we ought to see more of them towards the galactic centre than in other directions. But this is only true if the bursts are bright enough for us to see them at the distance of the centre; if they are really quite faint we would only see very nearby ones because the Galaxy in our vicinity is quite uniform, there would be the same number in all directions.

There is only one other possibility, that gamma ray bursts are billions

bursts of galactic gamma rays from other galaxies. If the bursts are able to travel the distance between galaxies, then they are not so rare. The probability is the same as the probability of a meteorite hitting a person. The answer from "maybe." Both Farnham and his colleagues found a collection of mature stars that were as uniform as the stars in the solar neighborhood. More worryingly, the stars were significantly different from the stars in the solar neighborhood.

neutron stars are they will be after a million years (the age you can compare the age of neutron stars to the lifetime of gamma-ray bursts). The proposed explanation for both studies is that the bursts are caused by collisions between two neutron stars, as suggested by Mazurek and Hartge. They find that if two neutron stars could merge, it would produce a gamma-ray burst. In the next two papers given at the meeting, the authors provide answers about

David Lindley

Reception

Religious Press Group
Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Prime Minister of Poland, attended a reception given by Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Convenor of the Religious Press Group, yesterday at the Polish Cultural Institute for representatives of the religious media. Mr Karol Draz, director of the institute, received the guests. The Polish ambassador and Mr Jambrozak, the Chairman of the Office of the Polish Government were among those present.

Latest wills

Major Sir Henry David Hardington Bartlett, of Brockley, Suffolk, British Amateur Men's Fencing Champion 1934-35, and a member of the Olympic team in the 1936 Berlin Games, left estate valued at £148,336 net.

Professor Robert Barer, of Sheffield, South Yorkshire, for 20 years holder of the Jackson Chair of Anatomy at Sheffield University, and a well known designer of scientific instruments, who was formerly MO

with the Welsh Guards in the Guards Armoured Division at the Normandy landings, the Falaise breakout and at Nijmegen Bridge, and was the first Allied officer to enter the Sandbostel concentration camp, left estate valued at £170,326 net.

Mr Albert James Sylvester, of Corsham, Wiltshire, a founder member of the Cabinet Secretariat, established by Lloyd George in 1916, Private Secretary to Lloyd George from 1933 to 1940, at the age of 86 qualified for the Guinness Book of Records as

the world's oldest competitive ballroom dancer, and as a young man was among the world's fastest shorthand writers and typists, left estate valued at £301,395 net.

Mrs Margaret Olivia Tegwell, of Salisbury, Wiltshire, left estate valued at £152,306 net. She left £900 and effects to her two daughters, and the residue equally between the FDSA, RSPCA, and Donkey Sanctuary, Sidmouth.

Margaret Hilda Times, of Hinchin, Hereford, left £655,000 net.

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David Lindley

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Floral Bouquet for Chanel

HOTLINE

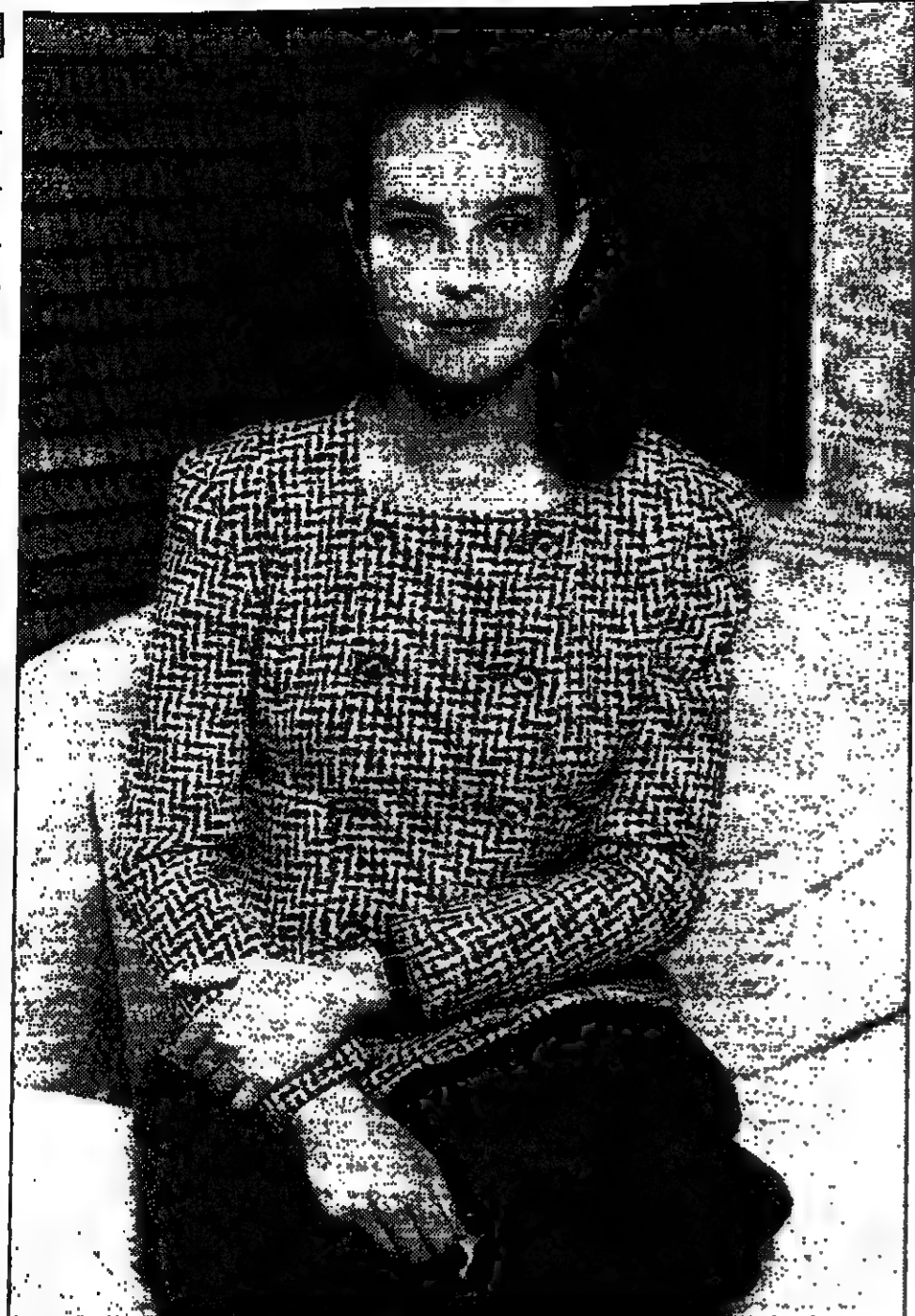
Why the star of a new French film had no trouble choosing her wardrobe

When the French actress Carole Bouquet began working on her latest film role, as Florence, the beautiful wife in Bertrand Blier's award-winning film *Trop Belle Pour Toi* (opening in London on March 2), she had a clear idea of the clothes her character would wear.

"She had to look chic but understated," she says. "She had to wear pale colours to look vulnerable. She is nothing like me, not my style at all, but I was able to pull bits and pieces together for her from my own wardrobe."

The fact that Bouquet, with her classic good looks and sleek waterfall of glossy, dark hair, is the beauty who embodies the most celebrated scent in the world, Chanel No 5, means that the clothes from which she chose her screen wardrobe happened to be mostly Chanel. They certainly convey understated chic, assured yet seductive. There are no aggressive angles in a wool bouclé cardigan suit, with or without the traditional ton of pearls. This is the uniform that suggests racy silk underwear worn beneath surface respectability. Like Coco Chanel, Bouquet understands the power of dress.

Her pale, uncluttered apartment on the Left Bank testifies to her enjoyment of luxurious simplicity, with comfortable wide sofas covered in white linen, and no paintings to punctuate the whiteness of the walls, only flowers, casually massed on an orderly desk. She lives with the photographer Francis Giacobetti, and their two sons, Dimitri, aged eight, and two-year-old Louis. She loves the freedom and luxury afforded by her Chanel clothes, which she mixes with comfortable corduroy trousers



Five star: Carole Bouquet in Chanel tweed jacket; 26 Old Bond St, W1; 31 Sloane St, SW3

and blue jeans, inches of red sock visible between turn-up and crocodile Chanel loafers.

Unlike *Laëz de la Pressange* who, until her spectacular and public bust-up with Karl Lagerfeld, the designer at Chanel, appeared fused in style with Chanel herself, Bouquet never pushes the look too far. She is not paid to be a

model. "When you look in my closet, you find Chanel clothes, but on me they look completely Carole Bouquet," she says.

"I feel lost in anything fussy. I forget who I am." So, no bows or fake gardenias; instead of the uniform ropes of fake pearls and jewel-studded chains, Bouquet prefers the

yellow sapphires, citrines, that match the sparkle of her green eyes, and the discreet 18th-century jewellery she collects, much of it bought at S.J. Phillips in Bond Street, or in the Burlington Arcade, on her frequent visits to London.

Her taste in scent is just as clearly defined. "It belongs only to me," she says.

Cristalle, Chanel's light, lemony fragrance created in 1977, was an early favourite. When she was picked by Jacques Polge, Chanel's perfumer, in 1987 to be the face to relaunch No 5 in its new, lighter *eau de parfum* guise, he made a special formula for her, a little lighter and more floral.

Among the foot-high bottles of Chanel No 5 that dominate her all-white bathroom are a few stray flasks from Penhaligon, Trumplers, Annouk Goutal, and even a bottle of Lauder's White Linen. "They all belong to Francis," she says dismissively.

● The fashionable, natural look in make-up, as demonstrated here on Carole Bouquet by her *visagiste*, Jacques Clemente, is as much the product of powder and paint as any artificial mask, and needs twice the skill in application. To help customers achieve such flawless perfection, Chanel is holding a series of two-hour beauty seminars at Selfridges. Individual skin analysis is followed by instructions on how to apply the natural-looking make-up. The booking fee is £10, redeemable against any purchase of a Chanel product after the class. To enrol, telephone the Chanel consultant at Selfridges (01-629 1234). Chanel Beauty Seminars will be held from March 1-10 at 10.30am-12.30pm and 2.30-4.30pm on weekdays, 10.30am-12.30pm only on Saturdays, with an additional evening class on Thursdays (March 1 and 8) at 6-8pm.

● That Coco Chanel could stand for nine hours at a stretch to fit, tweak, rip and coax a collection into shape, without eating, drinking or going to the lavatory, and that she kept her hat on even when taking a bath, are among the intimate details revealed in a new book, *Chanel m'a dit* (Editions Latès, 85 francs). Written by Liloe Marquand, a former journalist with *L'Express*, sister of the actor Christian Marquand, and the couturier's right-hand woman and confidante from 1954 to 1971, it covers the years between the comeback collection shown on February 5 (that lucky number 5 again), 1954, when Chanel was 70, to her death in 1971.

When John Galiano cuts cloth the results are



Above: Cream knitted cotton cropped vest, £127; blue checked cotton side-draped skirt, £165; John Galiano. Pendant on leather thong, £23; drop earrings, £28; both Butler & Wilson, 20 South Molton Street, London W1; 189 Fulham Road, SW3; Harrods, SW1

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never simple — 'nothing is flat, there must be a third dimension'. His new, relaxed, lower-priced sportswear line is no exception



Left: Side-wrapped, square-collared white towelling robe edged in black, £322; striped towelling bag, £85; white cotton Lycra swimsuit, £80; sandals, £80; all John Galiano. Straw hat, £72, Fred Bera at Jones, 13 Floral Street, WC2; Tanners, NW3; Succosories, Criccieth. Sunglasses, £16.50, Samco at Selfridges, W1; Harrods, SW1

Above: Side-draped white cotton jersey vest, £80; matching skirt, £120, John Galiano. Glit bangles, £198, Butler & Wilson. Gold pendant, £105, Robert Lee Morris for Donna Karan at Browns, 23-27 South Molton Street, W1; 5c Sloane Street, SW1

John Galliano stockists include Harrods, SW1; Joseph branches; Janet Fitch, 2 Percy Street, W1; Pellicano, 63 South Molton Street, W1; Ichi Ni San, Glasgow; Knightsbridge, Leicester; J.R. Taylor, St Anne on Sea, Lancs; Peaches and Cream, Newcastle upon Tyne

Hair by Joe Carney for Daniel Galvin; make-up by Martin Pretorius

**Diana has the glamour
but are we fair to Fergie...
and what about Anne?**
(it's a right royal saga)

A LUCINDA GANDERTON DESIGN FOR

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These lovely geometric cushions with their floral emblems were inspired by the patterns found in Renaissance Italian fabrics. Lucinda Ganderott and Alison Taylor, who specialise in tapestry and used the soft fresco colours of the 16th century, have created a series of cushions in a variety of sizes. The darker colourway has an olive green grid sheave set against a light blue background, while the palest shade has a cream grid on a sand coloured background, while the others are in both: dusty powder blue grid on cream. The flowers are the same in both: dusty pink, raspberry, sage and silvery sage. The cushions would fit well in any setting. Both cushions are in soft, fading tones and would fit well in either half-soft or tent stitch. The 16in x 18in wool tapestry from the Anchor Tapestry range is a complete set of the design in either stitch and the 12in x 18in version is complete with wool, needle, a clear instruction card and a hole to the inch. All for £28.50 the full fine colours. The carvers use FREEPOST - no stamp needed. including postage and packing. **THE CARVERS** TELEPHONE 0784 60661

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Few fashion designers boast a handwriting so distinctive that even when simplified to the bare outline of a plain white T-shirt, it is still recognizable.

Doodling sketches of T-shirts that encapsulate well-known designers' idiosyncrasies, as I do during many of the interminable waits for fashion shows to start, is one way to pinpoint those with a definitive style. An off-the-shoulder trapeze? Lacroix, of course. A tightly-roched T-shirt with a ruffle or two? Ungaro. A laced-front bustier inset in a T-shirt? Just one of a dozen for Saint Laurent.

A rather wayward scoop of a neckline, followed by a bias swoop at a sharp angle to the side, would be my oversimplified pastiche of a T-shirt by John Galiano. One of the few British designers with an assertive signature style instantly recognizable among fashion enthusiasts around the world, Galiano has moved on to the international map by defecting from London to join the group of design stars who show in the tents in the Louvre next month.

When Galiano cuts cloth, nothing is ever as simple as it seems. "Nothing is flat," he explains. "There must be a third dimension." So Galiano pushes the arc of a bias cut a few degrees further than most. A sleeve curves like a comma. A "blown-away" collar rises in a burst of folds from a flat tailored jacket. He describes the cut of one of his flatterers, high-waisted skirts as "a figure of eight". Many *Times* readers will remember an exclusive Galiano knitting pattern a few years ago, where the seemingly dotty instructions for a neckline centred somewhere around the navel resulted in a typical halter draped across the shoulders.

With a few simple strokes in cotton and Lycra, Galiano has distilled his technically skilled style in a new collection of sportswear reaching the shops now. The new line introduces his distinctive

detailing — a double-halter neckline that you yank into different angles off the shoulder, a waterfall-front T-shirt, a sharp-angled, bias-cut skirt — in a range of swimswims, cotton jersey skirts and flared shorts, trousers and tops. Skinny cycling shorts and generously baggy cotton jersey shorts, swimming trunks and T-shirts for men, plus full-length towelling robes, beachbags, towels, sandals and sunglasses complete the collection. Colours are mainly black, white and red, plain or striped. Sunstuds for women, matt, draped and sat, also come in a choice of navy, green, turquoise, aubergine and blue.

Galliano's technical skills, matched to a single-minded romantic vision, had come to the notice of the fashion world long before he graduated from St Martin's School of Art in 1984. In 1987 he won the British Fashion Council's Designer of the Year award.

Galliano's response to suggestions that his clothes are "difficult" and "too out there" is too off-beat to integrate into a basic wardrobe was to parade some of his last collection with an odd mix of Adidas track pants, satin boxer shorts, breastplates and tribal headwraps. "I have always treated my clothes liberally," he wanted to show it was cool to mix pieces of Galliano with everything," he explains.

Of his new collection, Galliano says: "Fashion is more relaxed in 1990. This is the essence of my line." Backed by Paris Biennale, the Dutch fashion impresario and retailer, Galliano lies the final test of his commercial clout with his move to the Paris stage and the launch of this lower-priced line.

● John Galliano designed the costume for Corralao, Ashley Page's new work for the Ballet Rambert, which opened at the Theatr Cwyd, Mold, in Wales last Friday. It will be staged at Sadler's Wells for a week from March 13.



OUT NOW

New Woman. You can't be one without it.

INFORMATION SERVICE

This selective guide to entertainment and events throughout Britain appears from Monday to Friday, followed in the Review section on Saturday by a preview of the week ahead. Items should be sent to The Times Information Service, PO Box 7, 1 Virginia Street, London E1 9XN

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THEATRE
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LIVERPOOL ★ **Tons of Money**: Aiyokoun's NT version of the Alchynch farce in which very complicated problems follow a scheme to grab an inheritance.

PLYMOUTH ★ **Single Splice**: Anna Carter, Neil Stacy and David Horvath in touring production of Alan Bennett's *Burgess/Burnt Double Bill*.

THEATRE ROYAL, THE DRUM (0752 689595). Mon-Sat 7.30pm, met Sat 2.30pm. £6.50-£10.50.

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Barbican virtuosity

In terms of executive skill, Martha Argerich (right) is one of the most formidable equipped pianists of her generation, though it has often been said that her brilliance is not always employed with enough discrimination. Certainly, given her dazzling virtuosity, it is a surprising venture for her to join Mischa Maisky at the Barbican Centre tonight in a selection of Beethoven's lesser works for cello and piano. There is, indeed, a remarkably symmetrical programme, consisting of two sonatas and two sets of variations, both the latter on themes from Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte*. The results are the Op 5 pair, the *Mozart's* *Walden* and *Bei Mitternachts Wechsle Liebe Fühlen*, and Beethoven wrote all this music in 1796. Having first played in public in her native Buenos Aires in 1946 at the age of five, Miss Argerich arrived in Europe in 1955, and studied with Michelangeli and Friedrich Gulda among others. By the time of her UK debut in November 1964 she had several important competition successes behind her, including the Basov. Following that London concert she won, in March 1965, the Seventh International Chopin competition in Warsaw, and since then her career has been international. Tonight, Barbican Centre, 8.15pm, £5-£12.50. *Max Harrison*



Symmetrical: Martha Argerich performs at the Barbican Centre tonight

★ **WARRIOR HARRY MET SALLY** (15): Engaging romantic comedy, with Sally Field and Kevin Kline. *Manhattan* who gradually fall for each other. Written by Nora Ephron, directed by Rob Reiner (88 min).

LA BOMME: Peter Knapp's young travelling Opera presents his revival of *La Bomme*, 12 Holland Park Rd, London W14 0JF. 7.30pm, £4, £5.50.

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SIEMENS

Information for Siemens shareholders

Streamlined organisation off to a good start

The reorganised Siemens made a good start in the first quarter of the current financial year (1st October to 31st December 1989). New orders and sales again topped those of the preceding

year's first quarter, which in some sectors were very high indeed. Capital expenditure and investment increased vigorously. Operating results rose 21%.

New orders

Siemens, comprising Siemens AG and its consolidated companies in Federal Germany and other countries, saw new orders increase by 10% to £6,437m (in the financial year 1988/89 it was £5,868m). Fifty-eight percent (1988/89: 56%) of this total was accounted for by international business, which rose 13% to £3,711m (1988/89: £3,275m). A quarter of this growth was due to the initial consolidation of newly acquired companies, e.g. Rolm Systems (U.S.A.) and IN2 S.A.

(France). Growth was weaker in the German home market, rising 5% to £2,726m. This slowdown was mainly attributable to a large inflow of orders during the same period of the previous year.

In £m	1/10/88 to 31/12/88	1/10/89 to 31/12/89	Change
New orders	5,868	6,437	+10%
German business	2,593	2,726	+5%
International business	3,275	3,711	+13%

Sales

Sales increased 20% to £5,427m (1988/89: £4,513m). German domestic sales in particular expanded, increasing 29% to £2,567m (1988/89: £1,983m). This reflects the surge in orders received in the past year as well as the completion of major projects. In contrast, international sales progressed at an even rate, increasing 13% to £2,860m (1988/89: £2,530m).

Approximately one-third of this growth is attributable to the inclusion of sales of acquired companies.

In £m	1/10/88 to 31/12/88	1/10/89 to 31/12/89	Change
Sales	4,513	5,427	+20%
German business	1,983	2,567	+29%
International business	2,530	2,860	+13%

Employees

Siemens' worldwide workforce rose 2% to 373,000. Although the number of people employed in the Company's German operations remained practically unchanged, its international workforce increased by 5% to 145,000, largely as a result of new acquisitions. Employment costs rose to £2,371m (1988/89: £2,191m).

In thousands	30/9/89	31/12/89	Change
Employees	365	373	+2%
German operations	227	228	0%
International operations	138	145	+5%

In £m	1/10/88 to 31/12/88	1/10/89 to 31/12/89	Change
Employment costs	2,191	2,371	+8%

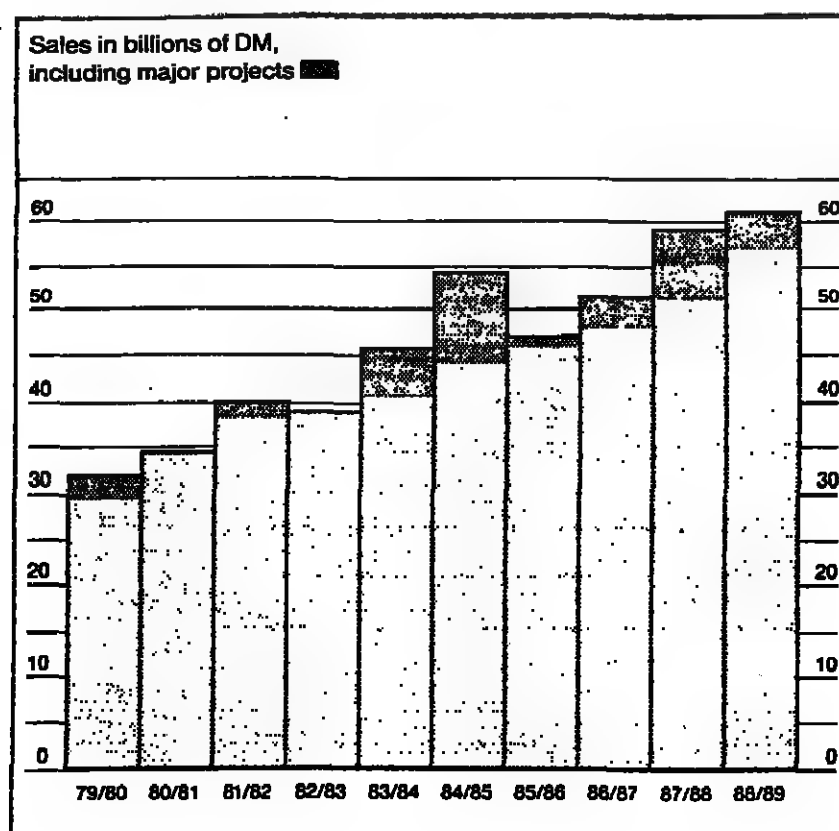
Capital spending and net income

Capital expenditure and investment increased to £745m (1988/89: £272m). Approximately £300m (1988/89: £230m) of this amount was capital expenditure on fixed assets. The largest proportion of its investment was used to pay for the outstanding amounts involved in the purchase of The Plessey Company plc, Ilford, which Siemens jointly acquired with Britain's GEC.

In line with sales growth, net income after taxes rose 21% during the first quarter to £134m (1988/89: £111m).

In £m	1/10/88 to 31/12/88	1/10/89 to 31/12/89	Change
Capital expenditure and investment	272	745	+47%
Net income after taxes	111	134	+21%

All amounts translated at Frankfurt middle rate on 29/12/1989: £1 = DM 2.721.



Confidence for the 90's!

The 80's was a successful decade for Siemens: Worldwide sales doubled and earnings improved substantially. In the past ten years the Company invested more than DM43 billion in Germany and abroad and spent over DM46 billion on research and development. The workforce grew by more than 40,000. In the U.S., Siemens has built up an organisation of more than 30,000 employees and a business volume of DM7 billion. As a result of the mega-chip project, Siemens has become a world leader in microelectronics. With automotive systems, the Company entered a new field in which it is now active on a global scale. These developments and the acquisitions and new alliances made in recent years, as well as a restructured organisation completed in 1989, will provide a sound basis for continued success in the 90's.

Siemens AG

In Great Britain: Siemens plc.
Siemens House, Windmill Road,
Sunbury-on-Thames, Middlesex, TW16 7HS

TEMPUS

Questions remain as Dalgety gets back to business as usual

Maurice Warren is a man who deserves breathing space. It is less than four months since he took over as chief executive of Dalgety, the petfood-to-pig breeding group.

Already, he has supervised the long-awaited disposal of the commodities business Gill & Duffus and embarked on a strategic review, the findings of which are likely to ensure that commodities are not the last business on which Dalgety calls time.

Yesterday's interim figures reinforced the impression that it is business as usual again, after the drama of last year's departure of his predecessor, Mr Terry Pryce.

At £57.1 million, pre-tax profits for the six months to December were a million or so above what the market was looking for and 10.4 per cent ahead of last time. Gearing is also heading the right way — down from 70 per cent to 41 per cent.

The one slight worry is that before the reduced interest charge is taken into effect trading profits had actually fallen, if only by £200,000, to £77.7 million.

But that is exactly what Mr Warren's strategic review will address, as the 10 per cent hike in the interim dividend suggests. For just as a feed compounder adjusts the mix to keep his margins high, Mr Newman has to adjust Dalgety's business mix.

The stock market will want large restructuring. It wants to know if Dalgety will hang on to Dalgety Farms, the 65 per cent-owned Australian subsidiary. It wants to know if there is still growth in Martin Brower, its US subsidiary. And is continental Europe Dalgety's chosen area of expansion?

Mr Warren has undertaken to answer these and other queries in deed, if not word. He appears to have the time. Mr Robert Holmes & Court and his partner Elf Aquitaine, have now taken their stake below 5 per cent.

Sadly for shareholders it has also taken the heat out of the share price. Analysts are looking for about £120 million for



Confident: Mr Gordon Black, joint chairman of Peter Black

the full year with earnings per share of about 36p. That puts the company on a prospective p/e of 10.5, in line with the sector average. That is the way it should stay until Mr Warren comes up with some answers.

Peter Black

Peter Black can be thought of as a mixture of Sears, Coloroll and Body Shop. Half its business is shoes, with the balance split between home furnishings and toiletries. Taken in isolation, Black's first-half performance might look uninspiring. By comparison with results from others in the sector, Black has been doing well.

Sales were a touch down at £73.5 million in the six months to the beginning of December, although pre-tax profits edged 5 per cent ahead to £3.54 million. Black is proud that operating margins widened from 6.8 to 7.1 per cent, reflecting investment in efficiency-improving plants, and action to cut overheads.

Black acknowledges that much of its relative stability comes from its relationship with Marks and Spencer, which accounts for 60 per cent of its output. Fifteen years ago the company supplied only

slippers and bags, but Black has followed Marks into furnishing and, most recently, cosmetics and toiletries.

Most of Black's cosmetics and toiletries business has been built up from scratch, though in October it splashed out £12.8 million — equivalent to 15 times its earnings — on English Grains, which makes herbal remedies.

While that purchase had little impact on the half-year figures, the growth of original subsidiaries in this division offset setbacks in other divisions.

Earnings per share were only 4 per cent up at 6.92p in the six months, considerably below the annual growth of 15 per cent averaged in the previous five years. However, the interim dividend is to go up by no less than 18 per cent to 0.77p. This reflects Black's confidence and the belief that tax reform has made dividends more attractive.

Analysts have shaded down expectations for the full year, but profits of £10.5 million and earnings of 12.5p would still leave the shares at 121p on a prospective p/e ratio of less than 10. That is inexpensive, though disasters elsewhere in the sector may hold the rating back.

HunterPrint faces long haul

HunterPrint Group, which in its time has printed enough gloom about other firms' misfortunes, now has its own dose of poor financial medicine.

The group has sunk into a pre-tax loss of £2.19 million for the year ended October 1 against a pre-tax profit of £4.45 million. It has passed its final dividend, leaving only the 3p interim already paid against 10p for 1988.

The upturn in depressed business conditions, further compounded by start-up problems, and ruins 23 years of uninterrupted growth.

Financial prospects depend heavily on getting the magazine and catalogue divisions

back to profit swiftly. The balance sheet sees shareholders' funds down from £31.5 million to £20.5 million, and with net debt at £23 million the group ended its year with gearing at 112 per cent.

Last month's sale of its financial printing division showed a net injection of between £2.4 million and £2.8 million — though payment will be spread over two years — and while HunterPrint has held down the new technology for the 1990s so it can give the European competition a run for its money, relief on the high interest rate front is needed before financial smiles break out again.

The Hunter family holds a 23 per cent stake and Gresham Trust a further 13 per cent. There are no competitive printing company holdings, though if HunterPrint is seen to be down and struggling, some opportunistic buying may yet be seen.

Meanwhile, it looks like a slow haul back to profits, so dividend restoration must be some way off. Yesterday the shares fell from 110p to 102p.

Until there is evidence that HunterPrint is firmly back in the black, and until the bid is given that dividend cheques are back in the post, the shares are a gamble.

Stratagem boosted in Colonnade offer

By Jeremy Andrews

Shares in Colonnade Development Capital, an investment trust managed by British & Commonwealth, fell 15p to 165p on the news that certain institutional holders intend to accept the 16.5p cash offer from Stratagem, a quoted investment company.

These institutions also sold Stratagem enough shares to give it a 25 per cent blocking stake in Colonnade.

Last Friday, Mr Bernard Kerrison, Stratagem's chairman, was reported as saying that Colonnade's counter-proposals "will not shake the support of the institutions who have indicated their intention to accept" the £8.2 million offer from Stratagem.

CBI review of financial services

By Our City Staff

A new barometer of the health of financial services is to be launched this month by the Confederation of British Industry.

It has joined accountants and management consultants Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte to plot such variables as level of business, outlook for the industry, trends in costs and profitability and employment.

Firms to be surveyed include banks, finance houses, building societies, insurance companies, pension funds, unit trusts and stockbrokers.

The CBI already conducts authoritative reviews of manufacturing industry and the distributive trades.

Dr Andrew Sentance, CBI director of economic affairs, said: "There is at present little reliable information on current trends in financial services in spite of the fact that financial institutions make a major contribution to the UK economy by generating overseas earnings and employment opportunities."

"Initially we hope to survey about 500 companies, but it is our intention to build on this sound foundation as the survey develops."

Results of the first survey, to be published quarterly, will be released on February 22.

Shares fall

Stanley Miller, the Tyneside construction company, has learned that its largest shareholder, the North East Investment Trust with 29.9 per cent, will be selling its holding after year-end results are announced in April.

North East Investment is controlled by two Stanley Miller directors, and news of the planned sale sent the shares down 20p to 114p.

Quadrant will miss profit expectations

By Melinda Wittstock

Quadrant Group, the acquisitive photographic and video company, has given warning that profits for the year to end-February will fall short of earlier expectations.

Mr Jeremy Peace, the former stockbroker who is chairman of Quadrant, said pre-tax profits, however, will not be less than £5 million, an increase of about 13 per cent on last year's £4.4 million.

He said sales at Quadrant, which supplies estate agents with photographs and distributes photographic products to retailers, had been hit by the downturn in consumer spending.

"There has been a general decline in sales across the group," said Mr Peace. But he said the board is taking action

to "substantially reduce" its cost base in order to improve operating profitability in the coming financial year.

Mr Peace said that total cost-cutting would amount to more than £1 million.

This will involve redundancies in the processing and video equipment sales divisions.

Total proceeds from the disposal of the cellular communications business, which made no contribution to second-half profits, will push total cash balances at Quadrant up to £25 million.

Mr Peace said Quadrant would use the money to make acquisitions, as well as to take advantage of "strategic opportunities for organic growth."

Quadrant shares fell 17p to 128p.

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Former c takes over

Cloak and dagger by the count

Russian words

Former Marriott men set sights on Hilton Hotels

From James Bone, New York

Mr Alfred Checchi, the former Marriott hotel official who led last year's \$3.65 billion buyout of NWA Inc, the parent of Northwest Airlines, has emerged as a contender for Hilton Hotels Corp.

Mr Checchi and two other former Marriott officials, Mr Gary Wilson and Mr Frederic Malek, are reported to be seeking financing to make an all-cash offer for the hotel and casino concern. Mr Malek was also involved in the NWA deal.

The former Marriott officials apparently believe their experience could help them in running Hilton — possibly by selling off hotels and contracting to manage them instead as Marriott has done over the last decade.

A combined effort with Japan Air Lines or another Japanese concern interested in certain Hilton assets is also possible.

JAL has expressed interest in buying and managing the Hilton Hawaiian Village, val-

ued at around \$1 billion. Hilton Hotels put itself up for sale last summer after the settlement of a dispute over the estate of its founder, Mr Conrad Hilton.

At the time, analysts estimated the 48 million shares of Hilton common stock might

fetch up to \$130 a share, and the company said it had received expressions of interest from around the world, especially from Asia.

But the takeover climate has since soured, particularly for deals involving real estate, because of the softening of

property prices. Offers for Hilton came in far lower than expected, reportedly in the \$90-a-share range, with Japanese buyers apparently making no bids despite earlier interest in "trophy" properties such as the Hilton's Waldorf Astoria on Manhattan's Park Avenue.

After a two-day meeting last week, the Hilton board decided to ignore existing buyout offers while it attempted to negotiate a better deal or come up with a restructuring plan.

Among the bids now on the table is believed to be a cash and securities offer by JMB Realty Corp, based in Chicago, and another proposal by Miller-Kutznick-Davis-Gray, based in Denver, the real estate investment vehicle of the Los Angeles investor Mr Marvin Davis.

At least one other company is also believed to have made an offer. The proposals are reported to be close to \$80 a share.

Queens Moat Houses in W German expansion

Queens Moat Houses, which recently launched a near £200 million bid for Norfolk Capital, another hotels group, yesterday paid £13.3 million for two hotels in West Germany, announced that it was building one in Düsseldorf and said a deal was close on building a fourth in Lübeck. But the news knocked 1p off the Queens Moat share price, reducing slightly the value of its two-for-five share offer for Norfolk.

The hotels purchased — the Ambassadors in München-Gladbach and Ingolstadt — have a total of 250 bedrooms. Queens says they are both in commercial areas and fit in well with company sites in West Germany.

Queens now claims to be the largest British-based operator and owner of hotels in continental Europe. The hotel in Düsseldorf will cost £12 million and have 167 bedrooms with banqueting and conference centres.

Up to 300 jobs cut at GrandMet

Up to 300 jobs are to go at Grand Metropolitan following a restructuring of the group's retailing operations. Seventy further sites, mainly small hotels and Berni Inns, are also being put up for sale.

GrandMet is forming a pub company, which will look after its Chief & Brewer, Clifton Inns and Berni Inns, and a separate high street restaurant division, which will be responsible for the Old Orleans, Pastificio, Pizzaland and Perfect Pizza operations.

The move means a significant saving in the central services and cost structure, the company said.

Howard drops

Howard Holdings, a property developer, has suffered a near 25 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £12.1 million in the six months to end-October. Turnover dropped by £414,000 to £5.03 million. The interim dividend stays at 0.6p on earnings per share of 3.1p (4.2p).

\$2m job for BT

Tymnet, British Telecom's newly-acquired subsidiary, has won a \$2 million contract to supply a private packet-switched data network for the Saudi French Bank.

Dalgety rises to £57.1m

ALAN WELLER

By Matthew Bond



Strategic review of the business: Maurice Warren yesterday

Dalgety, the crisps to pot noodle group, has revealed a 10.4 per cent increase in pre-tax profits. In the six months to December the group made a pre-tax profit of £57.1 million.

Mr Maurice Warren, who took over as chief executive last October, said the group had embarked on a strategic review of its businesses aimed at lifting the company's earnings into the top quartile of the food sector.

That process began last year with the £87 million sale of the commodities business Gill & Duffus. But as Mr Warren indicated: "We're still looking hard at the group to see whether there are any divisions that could be strengthened by acquisition or whether there are more divestments that can be made."

Mr Warren admitted that the outlook for Dalgety's Australian subsidiary Dalgety Farmers was not promising, but it was too early to say whether the 65 per cent-owned subsidiary might form part of a disposal programme.

Trading profits fell fractionally to £77.7 million, before the reduced interest charge due to the Gill & Duffus sale helped lift profits at the pre-tax level. The interim dividend followed the pre-tax trend with a 10 per cent increase to 7.15p (6.5p).

Temps, page 22

Alliance Girobank link near completion

By Neil Bennett

The Post Office has cleared one of the last regulatory hurdles in the sale of the Girobank to the Alliance and Leicester building society. It has disposed of its leasing business to the Norwich Union for £342 million.

After months of delays, the Building Societies Commission is now expected to give the go-ahead for Alliance's £130 million acquisition of the bank within a month.

Girobank and Post Office Finance (No.3), the businesses being sold to Norwich, were hived off from the rest of the bank last July, after it became clear that Alliance was forbidden to own them under the Building Societies Act.

Schroders, the merchant bank, put the leasing companies up for auction in September. Both specialize in leasing equipment such as fire engines to local authorities, and will complement Norwich's four corporate leasing businesses.

The acquisition, which is thought to be below asset value, will double Norwich's leasing book.

Alliance's planned acquisition of Girobank, the first purchase of a bank by a building society, has thrown up a series of regulatory problems since it was announced last April.

In particular, the Alliance has needed to reorganize the bank's unsecured commercial lending to bring it into line with building society law.

Now the Commission is thought to be satisfied with arrangements.

Slowdown in computers hits Orchid

By Our City Staff

Orchid Technology has suffered from a continued slowdown in the computer industry and turned in a loss of \$444,000 at the interim stage to December, compared with pre-tax profits of \$1.1 million.

The California microcomputer firm decided to cease making a number of products in order to reduce costs in response to \$4.9 losses in the second half of last year.

Staffing levels were cut 20 per cent, which cost about \$100,000 in redundancy. Turnover dropped to \$11.6 million from \$15.1 million.

Earnings per share of 13 cents have turned into a loss per share of 5 cents, and again there is no interim dividend.

COMMENT David Brewerton

The market warns off Ratner the retailer

The Ratners share price lost 10p on the first day of the account, not a good omen. Half was probably due to the miserable state of the market, where even the release of Nelson Mandela could not raise a bullish sentiment. The other 5p came off because Gerald Ratner even dared think about making a counter-offer for Dixons Group, the original Kingfisher bid for which is now in a state of suspended animation while the Monopolies Commission conducts an investigation.

Ratner has taken to thinking of himself (and, it must be said, his entire team) as a retailer rather than a jeweller, but it is clear from the share price reaction that his global view is not shared by the investment community. By and large, Ratners has done well by the City and the City has done well by Ratners. The company was backed by investors in the unique (I believe) ploy of launching a second rights issue before the first had closed. The shareholders were rewarded with a strong corporate performance from the acquisitions they financed.

So far, Ratner has barely put a foot

wrong. The original purchase of H Samuel business worked like a dream while the United States acquisitions have proved that the group can manage businesses in new geographical areas. But a move into mass-retailing electronic consumer products would be thought a bridge too far for Ratner, and it is hardly surprising that the backing simply was not there. In any case, a bid for Dixons at Stanley Kalms' asking price of 160p a share did not add up to anything but earnings dilution for Ratners, so it was a non-runner on those grounds too.

Ratners needs no backing to continue to build on its 30 per cent share of the British market. Acquisitions in jewellery are out of the question on monopoly grounds, so the growth has to be organic, which should be fundable from cash flow. But that does not mean that Ratners has to look for new areas of British retailing into which to expand. A far better avenue for growth lies in the United States, where there are still enough mom and pop jewellery stores to keep the group amused for years.

Gilts in German bondage

The devastation of the German government bond market continued yesterday with another fall of about a point in 10-year bonds. German reunification may be good for Chancellor Kohl's re-election prospects but in the short term it is making holders of German bonds feel horribly off-colour.

Gilts cannot expect to be immune to the events which are undermining the price of bonds (the German title for bonds) — nor have they been. Yesterday, prices in the UK fixed interest market drifted off another half a point, extending the weakness seen last week. The same has been true to a greater or lesser extent in France, the Netherlands and other European bond markets; all have fallen, though less than in Germany.

The spectre which is stalking the markets is German monetary union, and the effect which it may have on interest rates. German rates were already, on balance, expected to rise and this had been discounted by markets. The opening up of the economies of Eastern Europe is seen as likely to give a strong boost to an already rapidly growing German economy, increasing inflationary pressures.

On top of this the prospect of German monetary union, at a much earlier date than expected, has laid a new layer of monetary concern. According to Theo Waigel, the West German finance minister, a fully-fledged proposal will be put to Herr Hans Modrow, the East German prime minister, in Bonn today. Though many on the East German side would prefer a more extended courtship to this shotgun marriage, events are not

in their favour. The rate of emigration from the GDR is at such a level that desperate remedies are required to stem the flow.

Whether German monetary union will in fact be inflationary and what the Bundesbank's reaction will be are still uncertain — and it is that uncertainty as much as anything which is spooking the markets. It is probable that in East Germany as in other East European countries there has been a degree of "forced saving" by consumers unable to find anything in the shops to consume. Nobody knows how big this monetary overhang may be. But the entire East German money supply is only about 15 per cent of West German M3, equating Ostmarks for Deutschmarks on a one-for-one basis. And 5 to 1 looks a more likely conversion rate than 1 to 1.

The difficulties in the Bundesbank's situation were exposed last week when Karl Otto Pöhl, the president, appeared to stand on his head, calling the idea of monetary union fantastic at the beginning of the week and seeming to accept it by the end of the week. Raising interest rates as a pre-emptive move will be even more difficult politically than at other times in the context of a matter of such acute national importance.

With or without a rise in interest rates, bonds are beginning to look good value. A real return of about 5½ per cent is attractive for German paper. Unless one believes that Germany's low inflation record is about to filter — a matter of much wider concern than to holders of German bonds — then a recovery seems likely once the outlook is clearer.

Former chief of Glaxo takes over at Medeva

By Our City Staff

Mr Bernard Taylor, former chief executive of Glaxo, Britain's biggest pharmaceuticals company, will today become executive chairman of Medeva, the fast-growing drugs company formerly known as Medirace.

Mr Taylor, aged 55, resigned from Glaxo last May after three years as chief executive and 27 years' service, when the company gave him his job to Mr Ernest Mario, who had

been in charge of Glaxo's US operations.

Mr Taylor will accept the chairmanship today and unveil his plans for the group, the product of a £57.9 million merger between Medirace, the former Third Market-quoted company, and Evans Healthcare, a £27 million management buyout from Glaxo.

Shares in Medeva, which joined the full list last month, were up 2p to 95p.

Peter Black edges up to half-year £5.25m

By Jeremy Andrews

Peter Black, which supplies footwear, home furnishings and toiletries to Marks and Spencer and other leading stores, has raised its interim dividend by 18 per cent to 0.77p, although pre-tax profits rose only 4 per cent to £5.25 million in the six months to

December 2 and earnings per share rose only 4 per cent to 6.92p. Sales actually fell by £275,000 to £73.5 million in the period as an upturn in

cosmetics and toiletries was not enough to offset completely a setback in footwear and homeware and furniture.

Destocking by customers caused lower sales of imported footwear, and sales of home furnishings and furniture reflected high interest rates.

Continued capital investment enabled the cosmetics and toiletries division to achieve strong growth in profits. Temps, page 22

Cloak and dagger by the count

Stock Group, the private client stockbroking offshoot of John Gurn's British & Commonwealth, which was launched last October and contains the continuing businesses of Hoare Govett, Stock Beech and Campbell Neill, has expanded further by acquiring the private client business of Chase Manhattan Securities. Joining the group as a result is one Count Mark Pejasevich, who has enviable qualifications for his post of investment director in charge of the international department. Formerly head of cross-border sales, Count Pejasevich's first experience of a cross-border deal was when he was smuggled out of Hungary in 1947 while acting as interpreter for the British military after his estates were confiscated by the Communists. He returned to his homeland for the first time in December, and will be paying particular attention, therefore, to Hungary's first democratic elections since the War, in March, and to its gradual embracing of the principles of the free market.

Russian words

The latest refugees from behind what was once the Iron Curtain, a Soviet delegation, have just arrived on these shores to learn the ways of capitalism. Their itinerary includes the Stock Exchange, Lloyd's, the Bank of England and, yesterday, 31, the venture capital outfit. They were treated to a presentation by

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Pearl of a friendship

The abortive offer by Ratners for Dixons would have been the second deal between the two companies, according to Gerald Ratner, the king of the high street jewellers. There has been a certain amount of surprise at the extent of Ratner's generosity towards his old friend Stanley Kalms. But he says the 160p price came after 18 months of informal talks between the two, over many lunches, which finally

the marketing director, Chris Woodward, on the importance of a free market structure to venture capitalism, the incentivizing of managers and the management buyout — in fluent Russian. Chris was part of an experiment in the 1960s whereby schoolchildren were encouraged to learn a difficult language. He kept up his expertise during economic studies when he specialized on the Soviet economy. "I've hardly spoken a word in the intervening 20 years," he admits. "But it did cut down on translation time."

Creative lines

Creative People, due out next month, is one of those slim tomes packed with the blindingly obvious so beloved of management consultants and the world of advertising, from which its author, Winston Fletcher, comes. Fletcher has

set up not one but two advertising agencies, including his current billet, the snappily-titled Delaney, Fletcher, Slaymaker, Delaney & Bozell. The book claims to explore "the subtle, sensitive and often stormy relationships between those who earn their living by selling their talents to organizations and the organizations which employ them," which would seem to include most of us, including the driver of the number 10 bus. The name-dropped include Sir Ralph Halpern, with an uncharacteristically bland quote, and David Puttnam — "pretentiousness and preciousness drive me mad," he says. Of most interest is spotting how many of the 13 richest creative talents have seen their personal fortunes plummet of late. Among those featured are Sir Bernard Ashley, Richard Branson, Sir Terence Conran and the Seachtel brothers.

Martin Waller

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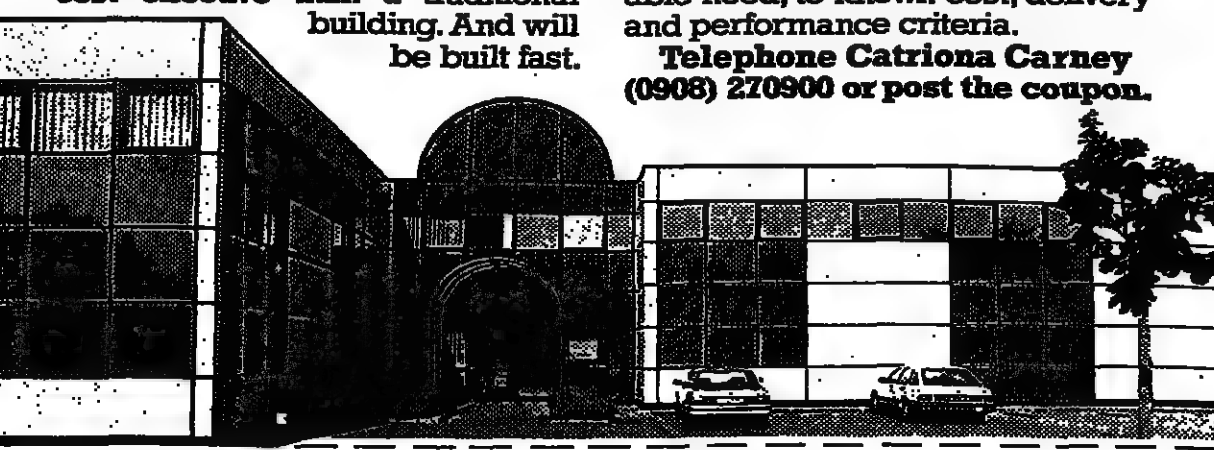
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Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES: PAGE 25).

1989/90		Price		Change		Vol	
High	Low	Company	Bid	Offer	Chg	Div	%
OVERSEAS TRADERS							
600	273	Amalgamated	576	680	-12	20.0	3.4
71	42	Bankers	62	534
17	118	Canalton	133	140	..	11.0	8.0
137	105	City of London	103	141	..	5.5	4.7
137	105	Finance (Lancs)	103	141	..	5.4	5.4
200	282	Insurance	275	275	..	24.3	7.7
200	282	Investment (W)	275	275	..	24.3	7.7

[illegible]

285	222	Abbott Mead	265	270	+2	8.5	3.2	1
499	246	Andros Com	147	152	+5	7.5	7.6	1
301	121	Amco Paper	75	80	..	4.8	8.2	
65	11	BNSF Rcs	182	170	-12	15.1	6.7	
200	165	Boji	96	106	..			
157	95	Brubaker	96	106	-2	7.9	7.8	
178	100	Bond (nd)	104	106	..			
118	88	CIA Co	115	120	..	3.3	5.5	
230	124	Cropper (Jama)	132	142	..	1.8	2.4	

[illegible]

315	135	Angie TV 'A'	270	274	12.0	44	8
316	136	Angie TV 'B'	270	274	12.0	44	8
340	225	Roscoe & Hanks	420	470	13.7	70	18
420	317	Shane Walker	266	270	10.0	43	7
431	344	Shane Walker Int	90	85	2.1	3	1
344	144	Outgroup	180	185	11.3	38	10
345	145	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
346	146	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
347	147	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
348	148	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
349	149	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
350	150	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
351	151	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
352	152	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
353	153	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
354	154	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
355	155	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
356	156	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
357	157	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
358	158	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
359	159	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
360	160	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
361	161	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
362	162	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
363	163	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
364	164	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
365	165	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
366	166	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
367	167	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
368	168	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
369	169	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
370	170	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
371	171	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
372	172	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
373	173	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
374	174	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
375	175	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
376	176	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
377	177	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
378	178	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
379	179	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
380	180	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
381	181	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
382	182	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
383	183	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
384	184	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
385	185	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
386	186	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
387	187	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
388	188	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
389	189	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
390	190	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10
391	191	Capital Radio	180	185	11.3	38	10

184	60	Alfred Lam	198	172	4.4	4.0
185	59	Alfred Lam	199	172	4.4	4.0
186	59	Alfred Lam	200	172	4.4	4.0
187	59	Alfred Lam	201	172	4.4	4.0
188	59	Alfred Lam	202	172	4.4	4.0
189	59	Alfred Lam	203	172	4.4	4.0
190	59	Alfred Lam	204	172	4.4	4.0
191	59	Alfred Lam	205	172	4.4	4.0
192	59	Alfred Lam	206	172	4.4	4.0
193	59	Alfred Lam	207	172	4.4	4.0
194	59	Alfred Lam	208	172	4.4	4.0
195	59	Alfred Lam	209	172	4.4	4.0
196	59	Alfred Lam	210	172	4.4	4.0
197	59	Alfred Lam	211	172	4.4	4.0
198	59	Alfred Lam	212	172	4.4	4.0
199	59	Alfred Lam	213	172	4.4	4.0
200	59	Alfred Lam	214	172	4.4	4.0
201	59	Alfred Lam	215	172	4.4	4.0
202	59	Alfred Lam	216	172	4.4	4.0
203	59	Alfred Lam	217	172	4.4	4.0
204	59	Alfred Lam	218	172	4.4	4.0
205	59	Alfred Lam	219	172	4.4	4.0
206	59	Alfred Lam	220	172	4.4	4.0
207	59	Alfred Lam	221	172	4.4	4.0
208	59	Alfred Lam	222	172	4.4	4.0
209	59	Alfred Lam	223	172	4.4	4.0
210	59	Alfred Lam	224	172	4.4	4.0
211	59	Alfred Lam	225	172	4.4	4.0
212	59	Alfred Lam	226	172	4.4	4.0
213	59	Alfred Lam	227	172	4.4	4.0
214	59	Alfred Lam	228	172	4.4	4.0
215	59	Alfred Lam	229	172	4.4	4.0
216	59	Alfred Lam	230	172	4.4	4.0
217	59	Alfred Lam	231	172	4.4	4.0
218	59	Alfred Lam	232	172	4.4	4.0
219	59	Alfred Lam	233	172	4.4	4.0
220	59	Alfred Lam	234	172	4.4	4.0
221	59	Alfred Lam	235	172	4.4	4.0
222	59	Alfred Lam	236	172	4.4	4.0
223	59	Alfred Lam	237	172	4.4	4.0
224	59	Alfred Lam	238	172	4.4	4.0
225	59	Alfred Lam	239	172	4.4	4.0
226	59	Alfred Lam	240	172	4.4	4.0
227	59	Alfred Lam	241	172	4.4	4.0
228	59	Alfred Lam	242	172	4.4	4.0
229	59	Alfred Lam	243	172	4.4	4.0
230	59	Alfred Lam	244	172	4.4	4.0
231	59	Alfred Lam	245	172	4.4	4.0
232	59	Alfred Lam	246	172	4.4	4.0
233	59	Alfred Lam	247	172	4.4	4.0
234	59	Alfred Lam	248	172	4.4	4.0
235	59	Alfred Lam	249	172	4.4	4.0
236	59	Alfred Lam	250	172	4.4	4.0
237	59	Alfred Lam	251	172	4.4	4.0
238	59	Alfred Lam	252	172	4.4	4.0
239	59	Alfred Lam	253	172	4.4	4.0
240	59	Alfred Lam	254	172	4.4	4.0
241	59	Alfred Lam	255	172	4.4	4.0
242	59	Alfred Lam	256	172	4.4	4.0
243	59					

539	249	Abingworth	338	387	2.8	0.7	..
710	72	Alford Farm	153	153
126	72	Asa Housings	153	153
222	80	Audley St	70	70
275	110	Baba	146	183	4.8	3.8	..
330	130	Baskley Gowl	187	182
108	130	Bt Coventry	102	102
103	130	St. Andrews	102	102
51	194	Cornhill	30	30
973	194	Cowdroy	340	285	7.2	0.5	..

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

422	314	Mason	395	400	1.2	18.2	3.6	11.4
121	40	Arthur Day	137	142	1.1	2.0	4.2	14.2
579	86	Augsburger W	42	127	3.0	4.0	3.2	19.0
128	44	Ashley (Lana)	65	57	1.1	3.1	6.5	8.1
425	380	Arthur Reed	40	40	1.0	18.0	2.0	18.0
128	128	Bentley (Lana) W	133	133	1.0	4.3	3.7	28.5
297	170		171	171	1.0	4.3	3.7	28.5
310	60	Blackie Lyle	72	75	1.0	4.3	3.7	28.5
101	340	Boyd Shoup	500	500	1.0	11.2	0.3	52.0
658	52	Bonner	56	60	1.1	2.7	4.7	27.1
128	128		128	128	1.0	11.2	0.3	52.0

[illegible]

267	157	AAF	low	170	180	18.0	4.7	4.4
268	158	AAH	low	171	181	18.1	4.7	4.4
2124	118	ADT	(mid)	190	202	20.2	5.1	12.5
420	205	ANA		267	267	26.7	5.7	18.6
435	242	ANA	Health	377	387	38.7	6.1	8.6
28	135	APV		53	54	5.4	0.7	9.7
276	114	APV		145	145	14.5	4.2	12.8
228	180	ASG		205	203	20.3	6.7	5.5
120	54	Autograph		61	60	6.0	4.7	7.5
229	146	Autograph		148	153	15.3	9.3	8.8

33	5	SI	20	27%
128	134	SW 'B'	15%
228	140	San Tim	140	145	-5	147	10.2
79	42	Scenic Group (4)	51	53	-2	28	5.4
179	125	Scor	152	155	-3	8.1	4.8
404	28	Scott Hardside	140	111	29	8.78	7.4
323	218	Scott & Hummer	265	275	-10	8.1	8.4
199	398	Seacrest	895	875	20	2.0	5.2
995	345	Seu K	820	825	-5	10.7	3.5
355	198	Shard	332	337	-5	10.7	12.4
100	100	Shard	332	337	-5	10.7	12.4

170	73	Adelaide	88	85	..	8.0	9.8	7.5
222	175	BPP	200	215	..	12.0	5.9	20.2
118	180	Barford Index	180	180	•	7.3	3.8	17.8
262	262	Bell (A&C)	350	400	..	14.0	4.3	12.7
60	60	Bell	350	345	•	17.3	4.2	16.5
60	33	Barford	37	37	•	0.1	0.1	0.1
67	65	Daily Mail	594	590	..	13.2	2.2	12.8
65	44	Daily Mail 'A'	54	58	•	13.2	2.4	12.6
378	378	Evap	222	229	..	7.8	2.5	14.8
378	378	Emergency Pub	378	385	15.7
14	14	Emergency	378	378	15.7
14	14	Emergency	378	378	15.7

79	504	Amco Energy	69	70	10
80	504	Amco Energy Resources	8	10
82	28	Amco Oil & Gas	41	42
83	7	Amco Pet	41	42
84	42	Amco Petroleum	713	735	..	32.8	4.4	21.0
85	248	Amco Petroleum (Int'l)	222	222	..	12.6	5.7	18.5
86	248	Amco Petroleum (Int'l)	337	338	..	19.5	5.0	18.4
87	125	Amco Petroleum (Int'l)	338	342	..	28.7	4.1	15.1
88	37	Amco Petroleum	338	342
89	180	Amco Petroleum	338	342

[illegible]

1989/90		Company	Price		Chrgs	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
High	Low		Bid	Offer				
81	120	Abbey National (sq)	181	183	-2	10.5	5.7	7.4
225	125	Anglo Irish	250	250	-1			
228	208	Anglo Gas	230	230	-2	4.4	1.7	10.5
81	57	Antaresco (Plenary)	78	78	-2	2.7	3.6	29.0
233	216	Asp New Z	265	259	+2			

[illegible]

1988/89		1987/88		1986/87		1985/86		1984/85		1983/84		1982/83		1981/82		1980/81		1979/80		1978/79		1977/78		1976/77		1975/76		1974/75		1973/74		1972/73		1971/72		1970/71		1969/70		1968/69		1967/68		1966/67		1965/66		1964/65		1963/64		1962/63		1961/62		1960/61		1959/60		1958/59		1957/58		1956/57		1955/56		1954/55		1953/54		1952/53		1951/52		1950/51		1949/50		1948/49		1947/48		1946/47		1945/46		1944/45		1943/44		1942/43		1941/42		1940/41		1939/40		1938/39		1937/38		1936/37		1935/36		1934/35		1933/34		1932/33		1931/32		1930/31		1929/30		1928/29		1927/28		1926/27		1925/26		1924/25		1923/24		1922/23		1921/22		1920/21		1919/20		1918/19		1917/18		1916/17		1915/16		1914/15		1913/14		1912/13		1911/12		1910/11		1909/10		1908/09		1907/08		1906/07		1905/06		1904/05		1903/04		1902/03		1901/02		1900/01		1899/00		1898/99		1897/98		1896/97		1895/96		1894/95		1893/94		1892/93		1891/92		1890/91		1889/90		1888/89		1887/88		1886/87		1885/86		1884/85		1883/84		1882/83		1881/82		1880/81		1879/80		1878/79		1877/78		1876/77		1875/76		1874/75		1873/74		1872/73		1871/72		1870/71		1869/70		1868/69		1867/68		1866/67		1865/66		1864/65		1863/64		1862/63		1861/62		1860/61		1859/60		1858/59		1857/58		1856/57		1855/56		1854/55		1853/54		1852/53		1851/52		1850/51		1849/50		1848/49		1847/48		1846/47		1845/46		1844/45		1843/44		1842/43		1841/42		1840/41		1839/40		1838/39		1837/38		1836/37		1835/36		1834/35		1833/34		1832/33		1831/32		1830/31		1829/30		1828/29		1827/28		1826/27		1825/26		1824/25		1823/24		1822/23		1821/22		1820/21		1819/20		1818/19		1817/18		1816/17		1815/16		1814/15		1813/14		1812/13		1811/12		1810/11		1809/10		1808/09		1807/08		1806/07		1805/06		1804/05		1803/04		1802/03		1801/02		1800/01		1799/00		1798/99		1797/98		1796/97		1795/96		1794/95		1793/94		1792/93		1791/92		1790/91		1789/90		1788/89		1787/88		1786/87		1785/86		1784/85		1783/84		1782/83		1781/82		1780/81		1779/80		1778/79		1777/78		1776/77		1775/76		1774/75		1773/74		1772/73		1771/72		1770/71		1769/70		1768/69		1767/68		1766/67		1765/66		1764/65		1763/64		1762/63		1761/62		1760/61		1759/60		1758/59		1757/58		1756/57		1755/56		1754/55		1753/54		1752/53		1751/52		1750/51		1749/50		1748/49		1747/48		1746/47		1745/46		1744/45		1743/44		1742/43		1741/42		1740/41		1739/40		1738/39		1737/38		1736/37		1735/36		1734/35	
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Year	Country	Value	Unit
1970	France	374	1980
1971	France	374	1980
1972	France	374	1980
1973	France	374	1980
1974	France	374	1980
1975	France	374	1980
1976	France	374	1980
1977	France	374	1980
1978	France	374	1980
1979	France	374	1980
1980	France	374	1980
1981	France	374	1980
1982	France	374	1980
1983	France	374	1980
1984	France	374	1980
1985	France	374	1980
1986	France	374	1980
1987	France	374	1980
1988	France	374	1980
1989	France	374	1980
1990	France	374	1980
1991	France	374	1980
1992	France	374	1980
1993	France	374	1980
1994	France	374	1980
1995	France	374	1980
1996	France	374	1980
1997	France	374	1980
1998	France	374	1980
1999	France	374	1980
2000	France	374	1980
2001	France	374	1980
2002	France	374	1980
2003	France	374	1980
2004	France	374	1980
2005	France	374	1980
2006	France	374	1980
2007	France	374	1980
2008	France	374	1980
2009	France	374	1980
2010	France	374	1980
2011	France	374	1980
2012	France	374	1980
2013	France	374	1980
2014	France	374	1980
2015	France	374	1980
2016	France	374	1980
2017	France	374	1980
2018	France	374	1980
2019	France	374	1980
2020	France	374	1980
2021	France	374	1980
2022	France	374	1980
2023	France	374	1980
2024	France	374	1980
2025	France	374	1980
2026	France	374	1980
2027	France	374	1980
2028	France	374	1980
2029	France	374	1980
2030	France	374	1980
2031	France	374	1980
2032	France	374	1980
2033	France	374	1980
2034	France	374	1980
2035	France	374	1980
2036	France	374	1980
2037	France	374	1980
2038	France	374	1980
2039	France	374	1980
2040	France	374	1980
2041	France	374	1980
2042	France	374	1980
2043	France	374	1980
2044	France	374	1980
2045	France	374	1980
2046	France	374	1980
2047	France	374	1980
2048	France	374	1980
2049	France	374	1980
2050	France	374	1980
2051	France	374	1980
2052	France	374	1980
2053	France	374	1980
2054	France	374	1980
2055	France	374	1980
2056	France	374	1980
2057	France	374	1980
2058	France	374	1980
2059	France	374	1980
2060	France	374	1980
2061	France	374	1980
2062	France	374	1980
2063	France	374	1980

TYPE	72	Gas	3%	1980-88	76%	..	4.08	0.87%
11701	60%	Each	100%	1985	56%	..	10.9	11.95%
11702	60%	Each	100%	1985	56%	..	11.5	11.95%
11703	60%	Each	100%	1985	56%	..	11.5	11.95%
11704	101%	Trans	100%	1985	104	..	11.5	11.95%
97%	54%	Trans	9%	1982-88	85%	..	10.1	11.52%
101%	31%	Comp	10%	1985-88	92%	..	10.7	11.59%
11705	56%	Each	100%	1986	100%	..	12.4	11.72%
11706	56%	Each	100%	1986	100%	..	12.5	11.72%
11707	56%	Each	100%	1986	116	..	12.5	11.72%
120%	11%	Trans	15%	1985	116	..	12.5	11.72%
92%	62%	Trans	9%	1987	87%	..	10.0	11.34%
104%	91%	Each	107%	1987	94%	..	11.0	11.51%

Year	Country	Year	Country	Year	Country	Year	Country
1975	Costa	1976	Costa	1977	Costa	1978	Costa
1979	Costa	1980	Costa	1981	Costa	1982	Costa
1983	Costa	1984	Costa	1985	Costa	1986	Costa
1987	Costa	1988	Costa	1989	Costa	1990	Costa
1991	Costa	1992	Costa	1993	Costa	1994	Costa
1995	Costa	1996	Costa	1997	Costa	1998	Costa
1999	Costa	2000	Costa	2001	Costa	2002	Costa
2003	Costa	2004	Costa	2005	Costa	2006	Costa
2007	Costa	2008	Costa	2009	Costa	2010	Costa
2011	Costa	2012	Costa	2013	Costa	2014	Costa
2015	Costa	2016	Costa	2017	Costa	2018	Costa
2019	Costa	2020	Costa	2021	Costa	2022	Costa
2023	Costa	2024	Costa	2025	Costa	2026	Costa
2027	Costa	2028	Costa	2029	Costa	2030	Costa
2031	Costa	2032	Costa	2033	Costa	2034	Costa
2035	Costa	2036	Costa	2037	Costa	2038	Costa
2039	Costa	2040	Costa	2041	Costa	2042	Costa
2043	Costa	2044	Costa	2045	Costa	2046	Costa
2047	Costa	2048	Costa	2049	Costa	2050	Costa
2051	Costa	2052	Costa	2053	Costa	2054	Costa
2055	Costa	2056	Costa	2057	Costa	2058	Costa
2059	Costa	2060	Costa	2061	Costa	2062	Costa
2063	Costa	2064	Costa	2065	Costa	2066	Costa
2067	Costa	2068	Costa	2069	Costa	2070	Costa
2071	Costa	2072	Costa	2073	Costa	2074	Costa
2075	Costa	2076	Costa	2077	Costa	2078	Costa
2079	Costa	2080	Costa	2081	Costa	2082	Costa
2083	Costa	2084	Costa	2085	Costa	2086	Costa
2087	Costa	2088	Costa	2089	Costa	2090	Costa
2091	Costa	2092	Costa	2093	Costa	2094	Costa
2095	Costa	2096	Costa	2097	Costa	2098	Costa
2099	Costa	2100	Costa	2101	Costa	2102	Costa
2103	Costa	2104	Costa	2105	Costa	2106	Costa
2107	Costa	2108	Costa	2109	Costa	2110	Costa
2111	Costa	2112	Costa	2113	Costa	2114	Costa
2115	Costa	2116	Costa	2117	Costa	2118	Costa
2119	Costa	2120	Costa	2121	Costa	2122	Costa
2123	Costa	2124	Costa	2125	Costa	2126	Costa
2127	Costa	2128	Costa	2129	Costa	2130	Costa
2131	Costa	2132	Costa	2133	Costa	2134	Costa
2135	Costa	2136	Costa	2137	Costa	2138	Costa
2139	Costa	2140	Costa	2141	Costa	2142	Costa
2143	Costa	2144	Costa	2145	Costa	2146	Costa
2147	Costa	2148	Costa	2149	Costa	2150	Costa
2151	Costa	2152	Costa	2153	Costa	2154	Costa
2155	Costa	2156	Costa	2157	Costa	2158	Costa
2159	Costa	2160	Costa	2161	Costa	2162	Costa
2163	Costa	2164	Costa	2165	Costa	2166	Costa
2167	Costa	2168	Costa	2169	Costa	2170	Costa
2171	Costa	2172	Costa	2173	Costa	2174	Costa
2175	Costa	2176	Costa	2177	Costa	2178	

43%	24%	Consols	21%	34%	-4%	..	4,000
45%	38%	Consols	4%	38%	-4%	..	3,400
70%	59%	Conv	32%	60	-4%	1.7	4,000
25%	23%	Treas	23%	23%	-4%	..	4,000
41%	30%	Treas	35%	36%	-4%	0.3	4,000
46%	35%	War L	37%	34	-4%	..	4,000

12%	103%	Treas L	3%	1982	171%	-4%	5.1	4,000
05%	94%	Treas L	2%	1984	704%	-4%	3.9	4,000
56%	136%	Treas L	2%	1988	1933%	-4%	3.7	3,400

[illegible]

1989/90		Company	Price		Chrgs	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
High	Low		Bid	Offer				
81	120	Abbey National (sq)	181	183	-2	10.5	5.7	7.4
225	125	Anglo Irish	250	250	-1			
228	208	Anglo Gas	230	230	-2	4.4	1.7	10.5
81	57	Antaresco (Plenary)	78	78	-2	2.7	3.6	29.0
233	216	Asp New Z	265	259	+2			

• Ex dividend • Ex all • Forecast dividend • Interim payment passed • Price at suspension • Dividend and yield exclude a special payment • Pre-merger figures • Forecast earnings • Ex other • Ex rights • Ex scrip or share split • Tax-free .. No significant data.

هكذا من الأمم

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Three-point appeal against Bond receiver

Mr Alan Bond's appeal against the appointment of receivers to his Australian brewing assets will begin in earnest next week.

The appeal, adjourned until February 21, is on three points — that a banking syndicate led by National Australia Bank had failed to show that the brewing assets were in jeopardy; that Justice Beach failed to take into account the harm done by the appointment of a receiver on December 29; that there was a legal argument over whether or not a court could appoint receivers when a creditor's claim was disputed.

Essex rises to £281,000

Essex Furniture, the manufacturer and retailer of upholstered furniture which came to the USM last October, reports a 14.2 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £281,000 in the six months to end-December. Turnover rose from £1.54 million to £1.55 million. Earnings per share climbed from 2.26p to 2.28p and there is an interim dividend of 1p.

Profits ahead at Fairway

Fairway, the computer and business stationery company, raised pre-tax profits £201,000 to £756,000, on 13.2 per cent higher turnover at £5.8 million, during the year to end-December. Dividends for the year increased to 2.75p from 2.5p by way of recommended final of 1.75p (1.5p), on earnings per share of 3.8p, up from 2.7p last time.

Automagic declines

Pre-tax profits at Automagic Holdings, the USM shoe repair-to-dry cleaning company, fell from £173,000 to £35,000 in the 24 weeks to October 14. The company said trading was affected by the exceptional dry weather conditions during the summer, transport strikes, high interest rates and increased occupancy costs. Sales rose only 5.5 per cent to £4.98 million. Earnings per share slumped to 0.4p, against 2p last time, but the interim dividend is maintained at 2.25p. Shoe repair sales did not reach expected levels, but key cutting saw further growth and London Valeting, the dry cleaning subsidiary, had increased turnover.

Hardy makes acquisition

Speakman, the environmental services company which makes products for water purification, has sold Wymouth Lehr, the specialized chemical trading business, to the MW Hardy Group, a private company which trades in specialty chemicals. Wymouth Lehr, which recently traded at about break-even, was sold for an estimated £500,000.

Caparo in \$39m US buy

Caparo Industries is extending its steel manufacturing interests in North America through a \$39 million acquisition of Bock Industries. The Indiana-based Bock makes structural steel tubing. Caparo is paying \$32 million and assuming debts of \$7 million for Bock which reported a pre-tax income of \$5.4 million in its last trading year to June 1988.

Filofax no nearer link with suitable partner

By Gillian Bowditch

Filofax, the ailing USM-quoted company, is no closer to finding a partner to help strengthen the business than it was six months ago, despite talks with several groups including Pentland Industries, the Reebok shoe company, which is also keen to diversify.

Pentland made a £180 million offer for Parker Pen just over a year ago but the deal fell through at the eleventh hour when some institutional shareholders in Parker withdrew only hours before the deal was signed. Since then it has been looking for another branded product to add a new leg to the business.

But Mr David Collischon, chairman of Filofax who yesterday warned that the group would make a loss in the second half, said he would not consider selling the business simply for an attractive price. "We are looking for a partner who will bring something to the party. Someone who shares our view of the product."

"We might consider someone who has a good distribution network overseas, for instance, but we are keeping an open mind about a potential partner. We have had talks with several parties but there is no one in the frame at the moment," he said. W H Smith was probably not the right partner. "They do not seem to be buying manufacturers," he said.

Filofax reported a loss of £554,000 in the first half and yesterday said there would be a further loss for the second half. Phillips & Drew expects the loss for the year to December to be around £1 million. The board has not yet decided whether to maintain the dividend.

Mr Collischon said Christmas had come late with a rush for Filofaxes in the week before December 25. Normally the group makes 60 per cent of its sales in the four months before Christmas.

Problems with the supply of leather for the new pocket Filofax also affected the business although sales of the new product have gone well and now account for 10 per cent of the group's total revenue.

Mr Collischon said there was no need for a refinancing as the group's gearing is less than 30 per cent. He and his wife Lesley speak for 63 per cent of the group's shares.

It would be almost impossible for the group to make a major acquisition because of the low rating of the shares, which fell 2p to 36p yesterday, but Mr Collischon says on the whole he does not regret floating the company and has no plans to take it private. He said his bankers and shareholders continued to support the group. Mr Collischon said

all his research shows that there is still a strong market for the product and he does not agree with the theory that the business is in long-term decline.

He believes that the death of the Yuppies will lead to a wider market for Filofaxes but admits that the price will have to come down and that competition is strong. The group is looking to diversify further into publishing.

Expecting to report a loss in the second half: David Collischon, chairman of Filofax

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Hartwell predicts 19% rise in profit

By Martin Waller

Hartwell, the Oxford motor distributor, has launched its long-awaited defence document to the £151 million bid from the Jameel Group of Saudi Arabia.

The shares edged ahead 1p to 142p on the news — 6p above the offer.

Hartwell, chaired by Mr Peter Huggins, is forecasting pre-tax profits up 19 per cent to £12.4 million for the year to the end of this month and a dividend increased by 16 per cent to 3.6p. It claims that, after deducting the value of its development properties, the bid values its trading activities on a "derisory" earnings multiple of 10.8 times.

But Jameel claims the docu-



Huggins' defence broadside "scrapes the barrel," pointing out that the profit forecast includes a £1.2 million contribution from a pension fund.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Index	Value	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (p)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (p)	Yearly chg (%)	Daily chg (p)
The World	755.2	-0.5	-0.3	-0.1	-4.8	-0.1	-4.7
(free)	148.2	-0.5	-0.4	-0.2	-4.9	-0.1	-4.8
EAFE	1423.4	-0.2	-0.8	-0.3	-4.7	0.2	-4.0
(free)	146.4	-0.2	-0.7	-0.4	-4.9	0.2	-4.1
Europe	725.8	-0.8	-4.6	-0.7	-2.6	-0.5	0.2
(free)	155.9	-0.8	-4.7	-1.0	-2.9	-0.5	0.2
Nth America	480.4	-1.2	-10.7	-0.8	-5.9	-0.8	-6.2
Nordic	1543.8	-0.2	-0.8	0.0	2.5	0.2	4.2
(free)	228.2	-0.2	1.7	0.0	6.0	0.2	6.9
Pacific	3584.7	0.2	-10.9	0.0	-6.9	0.8	-6.4
Far East	6157.0	0.2	-10.9	0.0	-6.1	0.8	-6.4
Australia	309.8	-0.6	-10.9	-0.5	-1.9	-0.2	-4.4
Austria	1913.8	-0.2	26.8	0.0	33.9	0.2	36.9
Belgium	678.3	-1.3	-10.8	-1.3	-7.9	-1.0	-6.3
Canada	530.1	-0.0	-11.7	1.0	-3.8	0.4	-7.2
Denmark	1381.1	-0.1	1.1	0.0	4.2	0.2	6.2
Finland	116.8	-0.2	1.2	0.0	3.7	0.1	6.3
(free)	151.2	-0.2	1.4	0.0	4.0	0.1	6.6
France	728.8	-1.6	-9.9	-1.7	-6.8	-1.4	-5.3
Germany	923.4	-1.9	0.6	-1.8	4.5	-1.5	5.7
Hong Kong	2158.3	-0.5	-2.7	-0.1	2.3	-0.1	2.2
Italy	356.1	-1.0	-7.8	-0.9	-4.7	-0.6	-3.0
Japan	5475.8	0.3	-11.2	0.0	-6.4	0.6	-6.8
Netherlands	658.9	-1.2	-9.2	-1.0	-5.8	-0.8	-4.6
New Zealand	93.3	-0.3	-9.5	0.0	-4.8	0.1	-4.9
Norway	1522.4	-0.2	13.4	0.0	18.6	0.2	19.2
(free)	263.7	-0.2	12.9	0.0	16.1	0.2	16.6
Sing/Malay	2048.1	0.2	2.7	0.5	5.7	0.6	7.9
Spain	217.2	0.0	-9.2	0.0	-4.6	0.3	-3.6
Sweden	1864.6	-0.2	-5.1	0.0	-1.6	0.1	-0.3
(free)	226.6	-0.2	-2.6	0.0	1.0	0.1	2.3
Switzerland	882.0	-1.2	-3.6	-0.6	-1.5	-0.8	1.3
(free)	135.1	-1.2	-3.2	-0.7	-1.2	-0.9	1.7
UK	667.8	0.0	-4.6	0.0	-4.8	0.4	0.2
USA	431.9	-1.3	-10.8	-0.9	-6.1	-0.9	-6.1

(p) Local currency.

Sources: Morgan Stanley Capital International.

February 12, 1990

Total: 22794 Cals: 12794 Pals: 9099

FT-SE Cals: 6145 Pals: 2088

Ermenegildo Zegna



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Hoteliers make bookings for eastern bloc growth

Melinda Wittstock discovers that as European barriers fall, groups have realized there are not enough hotels to meet growing demand for travel

Momentous change in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union has provoked unprecedented demand for more, and better, hotel accommodation, as growing numbers of tourists and businessmen, keen to explore new markets, head East.

British hoteliers, many who had been concentrating on pre-1992 western European expansion, have now woken up to opportunities in the east. There are simply not nearly enough hotels to meet growing demand, with many travellers describing those that do exist as shabby, badly-managed and grossly under-invested.

As growth in demand for British hotels slows to half the level seen in the 1980s, large British hotel companies are opting to bolster their ambitions by setting up joint ventures and management contracts in Moscow and most of the eastern European capitals.

Plans to move into Moscow have already been signalled by Britain's biggest hoteliers, with Mr Rocco Forte's Trusthouse Forte, Ladbrooke - which operates the Hilton International chain outside the US - and Bass, which owns 1,389 Holiday Inns worldwide, leading the way.

Ladbrooke will shortly announce a joint venture agreement to convert an existing residential and hotel complex near the Kremlin into a five-star Hilton, while Trusthouse Forte, Britain's leading hotel and catering group, is close to finalizing two joint ventures for five-star hotels in the Soviet capital.

Bass has confirmed it plans to join the fray by opening up a Holiday Inn in Moscow. But hotel analysts say only these large players, which are solely interested in opening up luxury hotels, will have sufficient capital to take advantage of the opportunities.

Mr Paul Slattery, a hotel analyst with Kleinwort Benson, said extensive hotel development in eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, particularly in the much-needed middle market sector, will not be seen until the latter half of the 1990s, after British, US and western European hoteliers have first made their mark on the continent.

He said: "It will be some time before the builders and developers - mainly the Austrians and the Swiss - have done the work necessary to see a mass expansion of UK hoteliers in the East.

"We won't see major growth until the late 1990s for



Moscow moves: Rocco Forte's THF group is already negotiating two joint ventures in Russia

reasons of negotiating delays alone. Even if you arrive in Budapest with suitcases full of money wanting to open up a hotel, continuing labyrinthine bureaucracy may hold up your plans for three to four years."

Trusthouse Forte, the first to investigate opportunities in the Soviet Union, has been at the negotiating table for more than a year. It said it hoped to announce the joint ventures shortly, even though the sites of the two Moscow THF hotels have not yet been chosen.

Mr Richard Power, a THF director, said the group was concentrating on identifying opportunities to open up eastern European versions of its luxury hotels, which include the Hyde Park Hotel in London, the Ritz in Madrid and the George V in Paris. It has already agreed to renovate and manage Poland's most famous hotel, the 208-room Bristol on the main boulevard in Warsaw.

The restoration of the Bristol, which first opened in 1901 but closed in the 1980s after falling into disrepair, is a joint venture between THF - with a 55 per cent share and management control - and Orbas, Poland's state-owned tourist agency, with 45 per cent. But

there are no plans as yet to expand into two- to four-star hotels, said Mr Power.

Ladbrooke, which already operates the 323-room five-star Hilton in Budapest, also said it is only interested in opening luxury hotels geared to the business travellers in eastern Europe. It is in advanced negotiations for a hotel in Warsaw while it investigates other opportunities in Prague and throughout East Germany.

But despite such concentration on the luxury market, there are some hoteliers poised to make a move for the riskier middle market.

Queens Moat Houses, the British operator that is bidding £176 million for Norfolk Capital, is understood to be negotiating joint ventures throughout eastern Europe which will involve the creation of three- and four-star hotels aimed primarily at business travellers. It is to use its large presence in West Germany as a springboard into the East.

All hoteliers planning eastern moves will operate their hotels in hard currency so profits can immediately be repatriated back to Britain. "It's not a question of

attempting to turn roubles into hard currency, the dilemma facing McDonalds which has chosen to sell its food in Moscow in roubles," THF's Mr Power said.

Mr Michael Hirst, who took over from Mr John Jarvis last week as Hilton International chairman and chief executive, said: "We wouldn't be interested in eastern Europe or the Soviet Union unless we were certain we could negotiate the repatriation of hard currency back to the UK. The new Hiltons will operate in hard currency and be 100 per cent controlled by us."

Mr Power added: "As hotel owners, we're only interested in a proper stake and long-term commitment. We don't just want our name hung over the door with a franchise agreement. We are after 50-year joint ventures in which we have total control over operations, including choice of raw materials used for food."

The British hoteliers say they plan to look at refurbishment as well as new construction. But none are interested in franchising. They believe expansion is not worth doing unless they can live up to their names with 100 per cent management control.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Amend rating injustices before it is too late

From Mr T. R. Lawrence
Sir, As a rating surveyor I have come across many cases of small shopkeepers who initially rejoiced that their new 1990 rating assessment suggested little increase in the rates payable, or even a reduction.

However, they have since been shattered to learn that unusable upper floor residential accommodation, inaccessible other than by through the shop premises, will carry a further payment of two times the Community Charge.

Not all shopkeepers wish to live over their shops and to tax them twice over is manifestly unfair in such circumstances and will be a contributory factor to an increasing number of business failures, empty shops and resultant unemployment.

Another unfairness is that Local Authorities will be required to charge rates on empty business premises, now, not days, as it was twelve months ago. They note that prices are being slashed to make sales as developers come under severe pressure from their nervous banks. If the banks and building societies start to get agitated about their more insolvent mortgagors we shall see an increase in the number of "forced sales" which will add to a downward spiral in house prices which will make many more technically bankrupt.

I see at least two consequences from the above scenario, firstly our bank charges will stay high, reflecting this second bout of imprudent lending requiring further bad-debt provision. Secondly the Conservatives will lose the next election for the many "house-owners" living in £60,000 houses while paying £80,000 mortgages will be very upset and will, with some justification (for they left the excess cash in the system), blame the Government for their problems.

Yours faithfully,
T. R. LAWRENCE,
FRICS, FSA, IRRV,
Lawrence Butler & Co,
Butler House,
86 High Street,
Hythe, Kent.

Unwilling hosts
From Mr Michael Bryant and Mr Mark Rittner
Sir, Eleven months ago, you published a letter from us (February 28) in which we drew attention to the unsatisfactory consequences of the manner in which the provisions of Section 44 of the Financial Services Act 1986 were being developed in relation to tied agents. We suggested that "Appointed Representative" status should be limited to individuals or businesses directly owned or controlled by host offices.

Sadly, the Homes Assured and Garston Amburst scandals seem only to reinforce the case which we then made. Clearly a number of host offices are unable or unwilling or even, dare we say, (so motivated by new business greed), to dare to police the activities of tied agents which they neither own nor control. The time has come for LAUTRO (or is it SIB?) to amend the rules so that all activities of all tied agents are the direct responsibility of their host offices.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BRYANT and
MARK RITTNER,
Rathbone Life and Pensions,
University House,
Lower Grosvenor Place,
London, SW1W.

Vanishing act
From R. J. Clothier
Sir, Yesterday, wanting a \$500 International Money Order, I took five \$100 notes to a bank in Oxford.

There, before my very eyes, my dollar notes were turned back into sterling and the sterling then turned back into dollars - an esoteric manoeuvre that added £18.07 to the price of the order itself.

"Money-changers" have had few friends over the centuries and I think that I saw why!

Yours faithfully,
R. J. CLOTHIER,
18 Somerton House,
Dukes Road, WC1.

Strain on low paid
From Mr B. W. Saunders
Sir, I must draw attention to the use of the term "inflation" which is highlighted by reports of the latest Public Sector Pay awards.

The retail price index (RPI) is widely used in the award of pay increases. This index is based on the expenditure of the entire population. It does not and cannot equate to the inflation rate for individuals because of varying expenditure profiles.

A large proportion of the working population has suffered huge increases in mortgage interest payments.

The resultant personal rate of inflation, say for mid 1988/89, may be considerably higher than the RPI, even as

high or higher than 18%.

This phenomenon is likely to be most apparent for a low paid house-owner.

The Government and the media would do well to remember this when criticising demands for above-inflation increases and reporting the miserly RPI-related increases awarded.

Considerable financial strain has resulted from mortgage interest increases, even the loss of homes in extreme cases. From what source are the low paid supposed to find the extra cash?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN W. SAUNDERS,
"The Shambles",
74 Westthorpe Road,
Harpenden,
Herts,
February 5.

With over 1.5 million unemployed in a country with one of the highest work participation rates (74 per cent of the working age group in employment), it is retraining of the unskilled and unemployed workforce and labour saving investment which is required, not further burdens on the increasingly shaky foundations of family life.

Lord's claim, that without State intervention, industry would not see its "own best interests so clearly", is reminiscent of the worst aspects of post-war British socialism. The market will naturally react to any labour shortages and people, with or without children, married or not, will

Civil way to clear debt

From Mr G. H. Wigglesworth and Mr Alan Turner
Sir, Your correspondent David Young reports (on the growth of credit abuse on which Mr Harry Kleeman, chairman of the CBI's smaller firms council, has expressed his serious concern.

For the small firm failure to honour a debt within the stated time by a firm with which business has been done is critical; not only can it lead to further borrowing at current high interest rates or even liquidation, but time of directors or partners in pursuing debtors, when they could be better occupied in the work of their businesses, which can seriously interfere with efficiency.

Britain would benefit from a civil procedure similar to that in use in West Germany. This is the "reminder proceedings" (mahnwverfahren) which can best be described as a summary procedure.

Once a claim for payment has fallen due the claimant, can submit to the courts a standard form setting out details of the debt; this constitutes a request for the court to issue a "notice to pay" (mahnbefehl). The application will be dealt with by a court official, and if he is satisfied that the submission is formally correct he will issue a notice to pay.

The debtor has two weeks to lodge an objection; if there is none, the applicant can apply for a "notice of enforcement" (vollstreckungsbefehl) which can include the costs suffered by him in pursuing these procedures. If an objection is lodged within the time laid down, the matter will proceed as a normal court action. These reminder procedures appear to offer substantial advantages to the creditor in that they are cheap, relatively simple and are a speedy way to obtain an enforceable title.

At a time when small businesses are being encouraged by the Government it is high time that action should be taken against those not meeting their bills by specified dates. The small firm is always reluctant to go to law and the debtor firms know it.

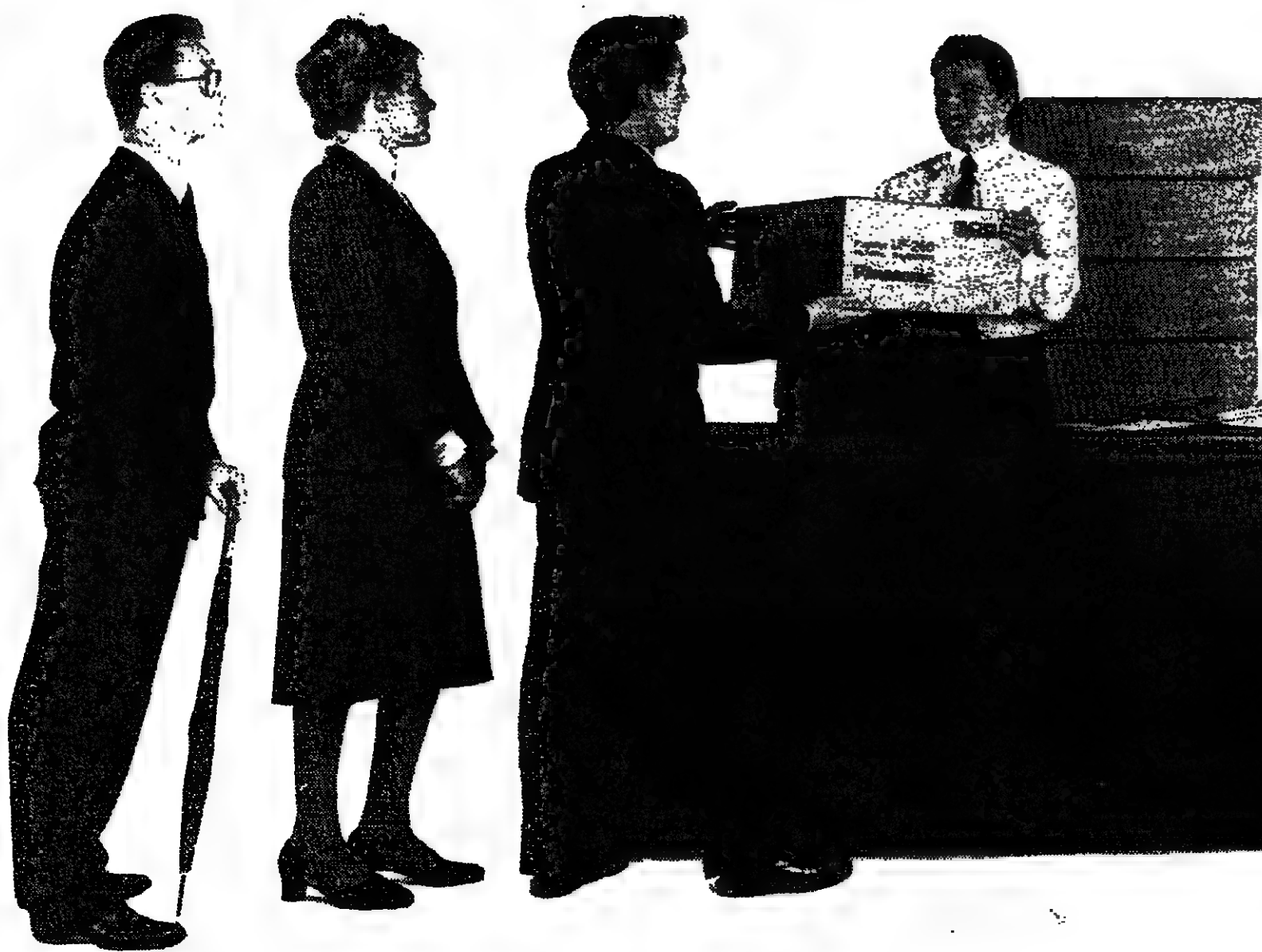
Yours faithfully,
G. H. WIGGLESWORTH
and
ALAN TURNER,
Alan Turner and Associates,
5 Cochrane House,
Admirals Way,
Marsh Wall,
Isle of Dogs, E14.

Tax information
From Miss Fiona McFarlane
Sir, Can I assure Mr Cormack (January 30) that the Inland Revenue does provide an information service in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, Dorset and Cornwall as well as the rest of the United Kingdom.

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FIONA MCFARLANE,
Inland Revenue Press Office,
Somerset House,
London WC2.
February 1.

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THE LAW

Penalties without a plan

The rejection in the White Paper on criminal justice last week of a sentencing council will disappoint a growing number of pressure groups who believe such a body would provide the answers to two of the most pressing problems of the criminal justice system: the growth of prison numbers and disparity of sentences imposed on offenders.

But what is the basis of this belief? A sentencing council is something of a penological unicorn; many have heard of one, but nobody has seen one in action. Not one Commonwealth jurisdiction, whose sentencing laws resemble those here, has set up such a council, and the experience of American jurisdictions, which have appointed sentencing commissions in a very different context, indicates that expectations are not always fulfilled.

In some cases, the different backgrounds of the various commissioners lead to fundamental disagreements, which have made coherent policies impossible to achieve. In others, the guidelines of commissions have been vetoed by the legislature. Some of the guideline systems that took effect, such as those of Pennsylvania, would not satisfy supporters of a sentencing council; they specify wide judicial discretion, subject to mandatory minimum sentences. The only state system (in Minnesota) re-



LEGAL BRIEF

Many people are disappointed that the proposal for a sentencing council has been rejected. But David A. Thomas questions its role

been rejected. But David A. Thomas questions its role

garded as reasonably successful relies on a crude grid, which groups cases simply by reference to the legal definition of the offence and "criminal history score", calculated on the number of previous convictions.

The more sophisticated system produced by the United States Sentencing Commission for the federal criminal courts avoids some of these criticisms. But it mostly produces sentences much more severe than would be passed here for equivalent offences.

How would a sentencing council work? Assuming agreement on who should appoint its members, there would doubtless be a judge as chairman and representatives of interested constituencies, both from the police and probation service. Unanimity would not necessarily come easily.

What form would the guidelines take? Would the commission have to provide detailed instructions for every conceivable case, or broad general principles leaving much to the interpretation of the sentencer? And, most crucial, there is the question of what authority the guidelines would

have and how they would be promulgated. Advisory guidelines, which were not legally binding, might be published by the council (rather as the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board publishes suggested starting points for compensation in personal injury cases). But these would have limited effect if sentencers were free to ignore them.

Mandatory guidelines, which sentencers were bound to follow, would necessarily be promulgated as statutory instruments, requiring parliamentary approval.

Given the high level of political interest they would generate, it is easy to imagine the difficulties they would encounter in this process, with the result that the council would tailor its guidelines to a shape that would find political favour.

But whatever their form, the practical effect guidelines would have would depend, ultimately, on the extent to which they attracted the support of the higher judiciary. Sentencing commissions in the American jurisdic-

tions have been created to fill a void left by the reluctance of American appellate courts to take sentencing seriously; few American jurisdictions have any significant tradition of appellate review of sentences or accumulated case law on sentencing. But a sentencing council in England would be a direct competitor of the Court of Appeal, which would always have the last word.

Advisory guidelines would depend entirely for their effect on being adopted by the Court of Appeal; mandatory guidelines would require interpretation and application to particular cases. So if senior judges were implacably opposed to a sentencing council or to its guidelines, there is not much hope of its achieving the objects its proponents seek.

The Court of Appeal is a familiar institution whose strengths and deficiencies can be assessed on the basis of evidence: the sentencing council is an unknown quantity, the ambitious claims made for it owe everything to hope and nothing to experience. There is undoubtedly a need for a more considered approach to the

development of a coherent sentencing policy, which cannot be achieved by direct parliamentary legislation. But evolution rather than revolution may be the best way to get it.

In the past 10 years, the Court of Appeal has taken initiatives in formulating sentencing policy, and not all its guidance has been focused on custodial sentences for serious crimes. The guidelines dealing with social security fraud, in particular, show that the court is capable of tackling offences on the borderline between custodial and non-custodial sentences, and in lowering as well as raising sentence levels.

Yet there is a major obstacle to the development of a coherent sentencing policy in this way: Parliament's insistence on constant changes in the statutory framework under which sentencers operate, another statute follows another almost before the ink is dry, and the intervals between the invention of one form of sentence and its replacement by another are constantly reduced.

What is needed more than anything is a moratorium on sentencing legislation, so that coherent strategies can be developed within a settled framework. Unfortunately, the White Paper leaves no hope of that.

David A. Thomas, a lecturer at the Institute of Criminology, Cambridge, is editor of Current Sentencing Practice.

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Family Division

Law Report February 13 1990

Chancery Division

Sterilization sanction procedure explained

In re C

Before Mr Justice Thorpe

[Judgment February 9]

A note of advice issued by the Official Solicitor (1989) 2 FLR 447) on the procedure to be followed on seeking a declaration that the proposed sterilization of a mentally handicapped woman was lawful was not intended to be a mandatory code.

Mr Justice Thorpe so stated in open court in the Family Division after a hearing in chambers and giving general guidelines on the procedure to be followed on seeking such declarations.

Mr Roy Warner for the applicant, the patient's sister, Mr Michael Nicholas, solicitor, for the guardian ad litem.

MR JUSTICE THORPE said that in *In re F (Mental Patient: Sterilization)* (1989) 2 WLR 1025, 1076 Lord Brandon of Oakbrook had said: "there will,

in cases of this kind, have to be a summons for directions heard by a judge, and it should be left to him to decide on the hearing of such summons, whether any declaration should be made, and if so, in what terms and on what conditions."

His Lordship said that the registry on issuing an originating summons seeking such a declaration should fix a date for directions before a judge of the Family Division for the first open date after the passage of eight weeks.

In that time the parties would be able to file evidence in accordance with Order 28 of the Rules of the Supreme Court. At that hearing the judge would be able to review the case.

If the case appeared complex then it would be necessary to give further directions including directions as to time. However, in a straightforward case it might be possible to dispose of

the case there and then without further adjournment.

It had to be remembered that the longer the litigation, the longer the period in which the patient might be exposed to risk.

In case of emergency the originating summons could always be preceded by an *ex parte* hearing when on an undertaking to issue an originating summons the court might consider abridging the time limits or dispensing with procedures as appropriate.

All the evidence including expert evidence should be by affidavit whether adduced by the plaintiff or the Official Solicitor. Hearsay evidence or reports from other sources should be regarded as inadmissible.

The Official Solicitor should be free to present his case in the same way as the plaintiff and should not be under an obligation to submit a report.

In response to *In re F*, the

Official Solicitor drafted his note of advice. He also drafted a questionnaire and on receiving notice of any application for the sterilization of a patient it was his practice to send a copy of the note of advice and of the questionnaire to the plaintiff's solicitors.

The note of advice was not intended to be a mandatory code.

Paragraph 5 of the note suggested that there would always be two hearings before a judge but in certain cases his Lordship had explained, it would be appropriate to elide the two hearings into one.

The last sentence of paragraph 6 of the note stated: "The proceedings will normally involve a thorough adversarial investigation of all possible viewpoints and any possible alternatives to sterilization."

That sentence should not be interpreted as precluding or restricting the possibility that

straightforward cases might be disposed of without oral evidence or dissent.

The Official Solicitor, as well as acting as the guardian ad litem of the patient in most cases would also appear as an *ex officio* defendant in some.

The first sentence in paragraph 7 needed to be expanded to make that clear. Whichever his role, all that followed was of equal application.

The questionnaire was issued to indicate the matters which the Official Solicitor would hope to see covered in the presentation of the plaintiff's case.

An answer was not obligatory. However, if answered, it should be settled by the plaintiff's solicitors, with or without the assistance of counsel, and should reflect the evidence obtained from the family and from the experts.

Solicitors: Tassell & Son, Faversham; Official Solicitor.

Arguable defence claim fails in tit for tat copyright case

Express Newspapers plc v News (UK) Ltd and Others

Before Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor

[Judgment February 12]

Where a plaintiff had successfully obtained judgment against a defendant on the ground that the defendant had no arguable defence, it could not resist a mirror-image counterclaim by the defendant on indistinguishable facts, even if it could demonstrate that there was an arguable defence.

Sir Nicolas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, so held in the Chancery Division in giving summary judgment on the claim of the first defendant, News (UK) Ltd, the proprietor of *Today* newspaper, to restrain the plaintiff, Express Newspapers plc, the proprietor of the *Daily Express* and the *Daily Star* newspapers, from infringing the copyright in the text of an interview with Miss Marion Ogilvy and Mr Paul Mowatt published in the *Today* issue of *Today*. The second defendant was Mr David Montgomery, editor of *Today* and the third defendant was Mr Timothy Miles, the reporter who wrote the article in *Today*.

Mr Peter Prescott for the defendants; Mr Michael Burton, QC and Miss Mary Victoria for the plaintiff.

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Mr Peter Prescott for the defendants; Mr Michael Burton, QC and Miss Mary Victoria for the plaintiff.

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THE LAW

The untapped workforce

INNS AND OUTS

The least appreciated, most underestimated members of any law firm are support staff. In scores of firms the contribution to the performance of the practice made by legal secretaries, receptionists and even legal executives is consistently undervalued. Their potential for improving the effectiveness of the firm is not considered.

It is not hard to see why. Although the partnership principle embodies the best features of a co-operative system, the reality in many law firms is a rigid and tyrannical hierarchy resembling, as one solicitor described it, Nicolae Ceausescu's Romania.

Within such a hierarchy a rigid caste system applies. Qualified professional staff are dominant. Unqualified staff and non-fee earners are the hewers of wood whose role is seldom seen to extend beyond the routine.

This is not to say that there are always poor personal relations between lawyers and their secretaries. Some friendships and personal ties of loyalty exist. But anecdotal evidence suggests that this is not always so, and in many cases legal secretaries endure a bored indifference to their work which is made tolerable

Several law firms have found that giving their secretaries more interesting work leads to a greater efficiency,

Edward Fennell reports

only by the size of their salaries.

In one or two firms this is starting to change. Rather than relegating support staff to an insignificant role, some partnerships are beginning to perceive their secretaries as a

'They sit down with their lawyers to discuss room for improvement'

considerable untapped force which could be mobilized far more usefully.

One example of this comes from Lawrence Graham, the ambitious outfit at the bottom of Fleet Street which is distinguished by the number of its partners who have backgrounds in industry and

commerce. Intent on introducing an unstuffy atmosphere into the law, Lawrence Graham has embarked recently on a long-term programme to give support staff a greater sense of involvement with the firm.

With the object of increasing motivation, secretaries are being provided with a better understanding of the firm's business while at the same time the barriers between them and the lawyers are being broken down.

In return for this Lawrence Graham hopes to secure improved efficiency. There are already signs that this is being achieved.

The most striking feature of the Lawrence Graham initiative is the secretarial development programme. Secretaries are being given far more information and education on the working of their departments so that they have a



Involvement: John Trotman with his secretary, Susan King

better understanding of the work of lawyers. They have been undertaking exercises jointly with their bosses to identify where the internal communications system needs improvement. "On the mornings of the

they sit down individually with their lawyers to discuss openly and honestly where there are problems and room for improvement in the way they work together."

"I've never come across anything like this before," says a newly recruited legal secretary whose experience of every other firm was that "all they were interested in was us getting the typing done as fast as possible". But with a better working relationship with her boss, and a better understanding of the significance of what she is doing, she is enjoying her work more and doing it better.

One obvious measure of success of the programme will be its impact on lawyers' chargeable time. Trotman says that because secretaries have traditionally been uninformed about their lawyers' work, they have needed more supervision than under the new system. Now at Lawrence Graham, the signs are that chargeable time is going up as lawyers feel more confident about entrusting work to their secretaries.

And a greater sense of involvement leads to lower staff turnover and a saving on recruitment agency fees. It may be enlightened self-interest but a more positive approach to secretarial staff is good news.

London firms Denton Hall Bryn & Warrens and Lawrence Graham have suffered the indignity of losing partners to another law firm. Bearable perhaps if they were going into a non-competitive firm — but they intend to join an aggressive American firm, Coudert Brothers. The move is all the more surprising because the defecting Denton Hall partner, Steven Beharrell, has been with the firm since starting articles there in 1963. Beharrell was one of the architects of Denton Hall's rapid growth in the past few years. Lawrence Graham in turn brought in Hugh Thompson two years ago to build up a banking practice from scratch. Both partners dismiss suggestions that they are bailing out. Coudert has set up an associated English law firm, Beharrell Thompson & Co, financed by Coudert, but operating as a solicitors' firm until the multinational partnership rules receive the Queen's assent. Beharrell and Thompson are also members of Coudert's international partnership in line with the Law Society's offshore partnership rules. Coudert, which has an international network of offices, has said it intends to employ eight or more UK lawyers by the end of the year.

Three weeks after the resignation of Hampshire magistrate June Hanan, who wrote to the Lord Chancellor saying that she was unwilling to punish people for failure to pay the poll tax, a second magistrate, from Eastbourne, East Sussex, has announced his intention to quit the bench. Roland Hutchinson has been a JP for three years and although formerly a Labour borough councillor he maintains that he is quitting the bench for humanitarian, not party political reasons. The chairman of Eastbourne magistrates, John Godby, has persuaded Hutchinson to remain on the bench until after April when the first non-payment cases are likely to appear. "I feel my conscience simply will not permit me to enforce an iniquitous law with which I strongly disagree," Hutchinson said in the *Eastbourne Herald*. "I know for certain that many families will find it impossible to meet the new charges... I will find it hypocritical to be a party to any punishment meted out by the court." It seems likely that the intervention of the courts will be necessary to enforce the tax if England follows the pattern in Scotland, where an estimated one in three Glaswegians are expected to be served with warrants for non-payment of the tax.

Meanwhile BNP Mortgages Limited is showing faith in the ability of solicitors to earn enormous sums of money (and presumably to pay their poll tax). BNP Mortgages, a subsidiary of Banque Nationale de Paris, have come up with a mortgage plan for solicitors offering unusually high income multiples of four times primary income plus three times secondary income with a five-year interest deferral option. The scheme was devised on the premise that solicitors' incomes go up rapidly in their first five years after qualifying. Presumably BNP has not been reading the reports of the Redundancy Helpline set up by the Young Solicitors Group of the Law Society just before Christmas. Supply and demand for solicitors tends to follow a five-year cycle and it looks as though the slump in the property market and the prospect of recession in the economy is pushing demand down.

Some City lawyers seem to have been strangely affected by too many hours working on dry legal documents. Witness this announcement in Allen & Overy's newsletter: "Just to remind all keen male users of the Gymnasium that Tuesday lunchtimes between 12.00 and 2.30 are reserved exclusively for females. Judging from the recent attendance records, some of you obviously have doubts about your sexuality." But that should not detract from success of the firm's latest project — *The Allen & Overy Recipe Book*. To celebrate its sixtieth anniversary, all members have been invited to send in their favourite, most unusual, quicker, tastier or most exotic recipe. The partners' cook, Rosie Dennis, is collecting the entries, and proceeds from the book will go to the Children in Cities Appeal.

Scrivenor

Time to change the law on young rapists

This week a Bill will seek to scrap the legal presumption that boys under the age of 14 are incapable of having sexual intercourse

On September 5, 1989, newspapers reported that the police were hunting a rapist aged 12. He was said to be a member of a gang of youngsters who had raped a 29-year-old woman and attempted to rape another aged 17. It was not a unique case. In April 1986 it was reported that a four-year-old girl had been raped by two boys aged 11.

In its 1986 report, the National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Women Teachers expressed concern about the dangers of sexual assault that teachers faced from young boys. In 1980, the Criminal Law Revision Committee said, in its "Working Paper on Sexual Offences", that rapes committed by boys under 14 were "a matter of public concern".

It said: "Cases of this kind occur in what have come to be known as 'gang bangs'; that is, a series of sexual assaults by a group of youths on a girl. Such cases are very serious indeed as the girl often suffers severe emotional injury as well as physical harm."

As more comes to be known about child sexual abuse, it has become apparent that boys are, in some cases, responsible. Yet the extraordinary fact is that the perpetrators, if they are under 14, cannot be prosecuted for rape. The general rule in criminal cases is that a child aged over 10 and under 14

can be criminally liable provided that he understands that what he did was morally or legally wrong.

There are special rules for sentencing and dealing with people in this age group. But in the case of rape, a boy under 14 is exempt from liability. The most he can be charged with is indecent assault or being an accomplice to rape.

The legal authority for this is the case of Groombridge in 1836. It was considered in those days that boys under 14 were physically incapable of sexual intercourse and, therefore, of rape. That this is not the case is beyond argument, but the law has

never been changed to recognize it.

The Criminal Law Revision Committee said: "Many think it is a scandal that this should be the law", and recommended abolition of the exemption. This was reaffirmed in its final report published in 1984. But nothing has been done. No exemption exists in Scotland.

An opportunity for judicial disapproval of the exemption was presented in the civil case of L v K in 1985. The case involved affiliation proceedings in which the putative father was a boy aged 13 years and nine months at the time of conception. There was strong evi-

dence that he was the father but he invoked the legal presumption applied in rape cases and claimed that as he was presumed to be incapable of sexual intercourse, he could not be the father. The court refused to apply the rule and endorsed the view that the rule was absurd.

A Private Member's Bill, introduced by Sir William Shelton (Con, Stroudham), will have its second reading this Friday. The Bill, which aims to tighten the law on kerb-crawling and to abolish the exemption from liability for rape of boys under 14, has government support and deserves support from all MPs.

Jennifer Temkin

• The author is a professor of law at the University of Buckingham.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on next page

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Continued From
Previous Page

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Progressive and go-ahead practice is currently seeking ambitious young lawyers (up to 3 yrs PQE) keen to build a career in this very lucrative area. Candidates will augment a busy unit already dealing with many major projects and boasting an ever expanding client base. Salary package and benefits are excellent.

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL £25,000+

City
Rapidly expanding firm dedicated to planning for 1992 is seeking young, up to 2 years qualified, solicitors to join their busy commercial department. Candidates will ideally have experience in Employment Law. Excellent long term career prospects and excellent salary package offered.

NON-CONTENTIOUS c£25,000

Central London
A mature experienced Managing Clerk is sought to deal with a mixture of Commercial & Residential Property plus some Probate work. The ideal candidate will be seeking a long term career post and enjoy working in a busy traditional firm. Remuneration package in keeping with market rates.

For details of these and the many more positions we are able to offer both in Central London and throughout the Home Counties call or write with full CV to Andrew Vivian or Paul Stapleton.

Tel: 01 236 4402
ASA LAW
8 Ludgate Square, London EC4A 7AS

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The Times Classified columns are read by well over a million of the most affluent people in the country. The following categories appear regularly each week and are generally accompanied by relevant editorial articles. Use the coupon (right), and find out how easy, fast and economical it is to advertise in The Times Classified.

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Creative & Media Appointments: Media and Marketing with editorial. La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments. Executive Career for senior P.A. and secretarial positions. Property: Residential, Town & Country, Overseas, Rentals, Commercial Property with editorial. Antiques & Collectables (Monthly) with editorial.

THURSDAY

General Appointments: Banking and Accountancy, Engineering, Management, etc. with editorial. La Creme de la Creme and other secretarial appointments. Science and Technology: Technology with editorial.

FRIDAY

Motors: A complete car buyer's guide with editorial. Business to Business: Business opportunities, Vacancies, Resumes and Places.

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Overseas and UK Holidays: Villas/Cottages, Flights, etc. Restaurants: Where to eat in London and nationwide with editorial. Shopping: Window shopping from the comfort of your own home. Gardening.

Fill in the coupon and attach it to your advertisement, written on a separate piece of paper, allowing 28 letters and spaces per line. Rates are: Lineage £5 per line (Min. 3 lines only first word in bold); Boxes Display £27 per single column centimetre (Min. 3 centimetres); Court and Social £9 per line. All rates are subject to 15% VAT. Telephone: 01-405 4571. Fax: 01-858 7840. For Classified Advertising Department on 01-405 4571. Send your advertisement to: Pamela Hamilton-Dick, Group Classified Manager, Times Newspapers Ltd, P.O. Box 484, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD.

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HOME
OFFICE

01-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued on
next page

GENERAL COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

EC2 to £38,000

- MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PRACTICE
- PUBLIC AND PRIVATE CLIENT PORTFOLIO REPRESENTING MANY SECTORS OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE
- SEEKING SOLICITORS WITH UP TO 2 YEARS GENERAL COMMERCIAL LITIGATION EXPERIENCE

The department is one of the busiest and highest profile in the firm, dealing with a multiplicity of business sector clients, built up and retained over the years. Handling disputes of varying complexity, lawyers in this department are encouraged to maintain a general commercial portfolio with a bias towards several areas of specialism. Experience will be gained in:

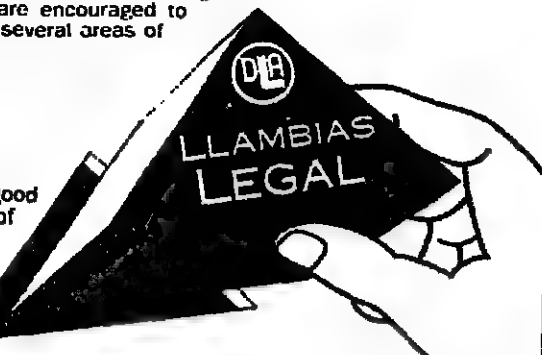
- HIGH COURT LITIGATION
- ARBITRATIONS
- INDUSTRIAL TRIUNALS
- A RANGE OF LESS COMMON PROCEDURES

Successful candidates should be highly motivated, have good recognised experience and be keen to meet the challenge of working in this friendly but busy department.

For further information either contact Gary Johnson or Deborah Nicol LLB on 01-836 9501 (evenings/weekends 058 283 2801) or send your c.v. to Llambias Legal, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS.

Llambias Legal, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS.

BIRMINGHAM 021-233 4421 • DUBLIN 606620 • EDINBURGH 031-225 7744 • GLASGOW 041-226 3301 • LONDON 01-836 9501 • MANCHESTER 061-236 1553



PUTTING THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT JOBS

CORPORATE FINANCE

City to £57,750

- CORPORATE FINANCE LAWYERS 3/5 YEARS PQE
- THE CORPORATE FINANCE DEPARTMENT IS THE LARGEST IN THE FIRM
- THE EXPANSION OF THIS DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED BY RECRUITING LEADING LAWYERS IN VARYING FIELDS

As a major firm involved in the lucrative field of corporate finance work, the firm is now seeking corporate finance lawyers with proven ability and experience. The department is one of the most profitable within the firm and is internationally acknowledged for its work in mergers, acquisitions, listings and banking. The firm displays an impressive list of clients and is committed to providing the full range of legal services to clients within the financial, industrial and commercial sectors.

Work will include the following:

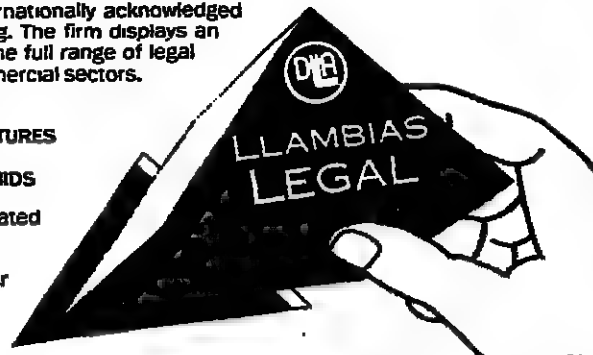
- YELLOW BOOK WORK
- A VARIETY OF MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS
- FLATATIONS
- ADVISING ON "HIGH-PROFILE" BIDS

The firm is expanding considerably and there are accelerated partnership prospects for those of outstanding calibre.

For further information either contact Gary Johnson or Deborah Nicol LLB on 01-836 9501 (evenings/weekends 058 283 2801) or send your c.v. to Llambias Legal, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS.

Llambias Legal, 410 Strand, London WC2R 0NS.

BIRMINGHAM 021-233 4421 • DUBLIN 606620 • EDINBURGH 031-225 7744 • GLASGOW 041-226 3301 • LONDON 01-836 9501 • MANCHESTER 061-236 1553



PUTTING THE RIGHT PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT JOBS

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...a trainee position in trade marks

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Central London

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- Major International Pharmaceutical Group
- UK Headquarters
- Annual turnover > £1,400m
- An Equal Opportunity Employer



Wellcome

The Wellcome Foundation Limited is a major international pharmaceutical group, with turnover in excess of £1,400m, which is engaged in the research, development, manufacture and marketing of ethical and over-the-counter products.

At our new Head Office in Euston Road, our Trade Marks Department currently has an opportunity for a trainee to get involved in the registration, renewal and protection of Group Trade Marks worldwide.

As a recently graduated Barrister or Solicitor, you will have some experience of the application of intellectual property law. However, as we provide first class training and encourage study for the Institute of Trade Marks examinations, graduates in other disciplines having a desire to become qualified in Trade Marks would also be considered.

Starting salary will be in the region of £16,000 for a Law Graduate and will reflect experience to date. Additionally, you can look forward to a range of benefits including 5 weeks' holiday, pension scheme, life assurance, Staff Education Scheme, BUPA and a subsidised restaurant.

Please write with details of academic achievement and, if applicable, work experience, to Mrs J.L. Sargent, The Wellcome Foundation Ltd., 160 Euston Road, London NW1 2BP.

LAURENCE
SIMONS
ASSOCIATES

Legal Recruitment

PRIVATE PRACTICE

ASSET FINANCE

Our client, a medium sized City practice with an international reputation in transport and commercial law, seeks a newly to two year qualified solicitor with experience in aircraft and/or shipping finance.

SENIOR LITIGATOR

This small practice based in the West End seeks a dynamic solicitor - at least five years qualified - to handle general commercial litigation. An early partnership is envisaged and the long term prospects are excellent.

MATRIMONIAL

A matrimonial lawyer with at least two years' post-qualification experience is sought by this friendly practice in WC1. The firm handles all aspects of family law and can offer an interesting range of excellent quality work.

COMMERCE/INDUSTRY

M&A LAWYER

This high profile international company based in North London currently requires an experienced lawyer to join its small legal team. The successful applicant will handle a range of corporate issues with an emphasis on mergers and acquisitions.

COMPANY SECRETARY

A junior company secretary is required to join the head office of this company based in Reading. The successful applicant is likely to be a qualified or part qualified AGS and will undertake a full range of company secretarial activities.

BANKING

This blue chip merchant bank has an opportunity for a lawyer with at least one year's experience to handle commercial matters with a banking bias including asset trading, debt swaps and other treasury matters.

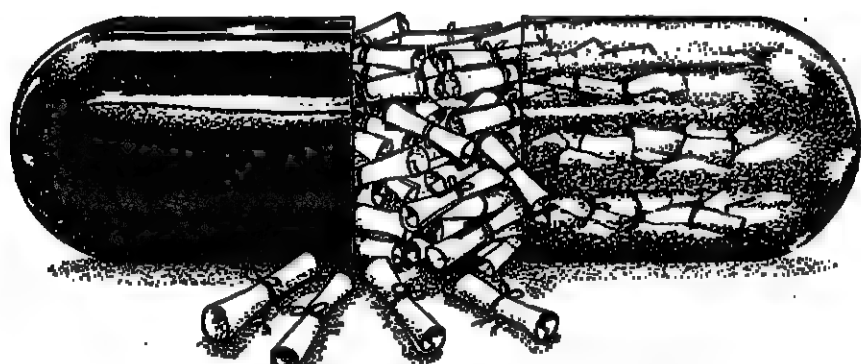
The above are only a small selection from the positions we are currently instructed to fill. If you would like to discuss any of these or any other aspect of your career, please telephone Laurence Simons, Anne Stephenson or Shona McDougall.

01-831 3270

(01-482 0349 evenings/weekends)

Or write to: Laurence Simons Associates, 33 John's Mews, London WC1N 2NS.

We are qualified lawyers with extensive experience in legal recruitment and all approaches are treated in strict confidence.

Manager Legal Affairs
Pharmaceutical Industry

A major international company, our client is an acknowledged world-leader in human and animal health pharmaceuticals. Efficiency, innovation and the highest levels of product quality are vital ingredients in their success. Investment of over £400 million annually in research and technology reflects their commitment to remain at the forefront of medical advance.

An opportunity has now arisen for a commercially-minded lawyer to join the management team of the company's substantial UK subsidiary, based in Hertfordshire. Reporting to the Managing Director, this high-profile role will involve liaison with all business divisions and will be responsible for the provision of important commercial advice. Specific areas of responsibility will include:

- Liaison with management to achieve corporate objectives
- Practical advice to sales/marketing and medical divisions to balance commercial and ethical demands
- Information for management on latest EEC legislative developments

- Membership of the Executive Committee
- Compliance of trading activities with applicable laws, codes of practice, etc.
- Negotiation and drafting of contracts and agreements and advice on general legal issues.

The ideal candidate will have at least two years' commercial experience and the ability to deal with complex legal issues. A desire to be involved in the pharmaceutical industry is important, although directly relevant experience is not pre-requisite.

The remuneration package is substantial, reflecting the seniority of the position and will include company car, bonus scheme and other company benefits.

Interested applicants should forward their C.V. (including details of current salary and benefits) to Liz Salter or Simon Hankey at Michael Page Legal, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH (fax number - 01-831 2612). Details will be held in the strictest confidentiality and will not be forwarded to our client without express prior permission.

Michael Page Legal
International Recruitment Consultants

International Commercial Lawyer

£35-40k plus car

Ashford, Middlesex

Informix Software is one of the world's leading computer companies and with the increasing acceptance of UNIX, tremendous growth is expected for our advanced relational database management software and tools. This growth has led to the expansion of our International Legal Team.

Reporting to the Vice President, International/Legal, you will be directly responsible for legal matters relating to U.S. Federal and Foreign regulatory programmes, drafting of major software licences and contracts, International trademark registrations and ensuring compliance with copyright laws etc. You will also be heavily involved in all other legal matters arising from our worldwide operations, and will work as part of the International Legal Team, comprising the Vice President, European and Far East Contracts Managers, and an administrator.

Ideally, you will be a qualified solicitor or barrister with 1-2 years' experience (ideally "High Tech"

orientated) or a law graduate with at least 3 years' relevant legal experience in a high technology company. Alternatively, your commercial experience may have been gained in a practice with "High Tech" clients. Candidates must have a very strong command of the German language, including the ability to draft legal documents.

This represents a superb opportunity for a young lawyer to develop their career in an international commercial environment with a dynamic, fast growing company. Future career progression will be to replace the Vice President International/Legal who is on an expatriate assignment. We offer an attractive package of merit related salary, fully expensed car, Life Assurance and Portable Pension.

To join us please send your CV to: Nick Foster, Informix Software Ltd, Informix House, Littleton Road, Ashford, Middlesex TW15 1TZ. Fax: 0784 249500.



BIRMINGHAM

City Centre

Salary Min £23,000 + Car + Benefits

We have been retained by one of the largest and fastest growing commercial practices in the Midlands. Our client is firmly committed to providing a "strength in depth" professional service of the highest quality, whilst placing emphasis on the importance of maintaining personal contact between Lawyer and client.

This commitment has led to a vacancy for a SOLICITOR to join the COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT, advising on documentation and agreements for use in the UK, EEC and worldwide, the department being made up of teams of specialists. The ideal applicant will be at least 2-3 years qualified with some specialist experience of Intellectual Property and probably Computer Contracts.

Candidates should possess sound business sense and a desire to work within a lively and hardworking environment. Salary and benefits will be commensurate with age and experience and prospects for advancement within the firm are excellent.

For further information, please contact Helen Troth LLB (Hons) quoting ref: 90ML/569T at Daniels Bates Partnership Ltd., Daniels Bates Hall, Rational House, 64 Bridge Street, Manchester M3 3DT or telephone her on (061) 835 3311. YOUR APPLICATION WILL BE TREATED IN THE STRICTEST CONFIDENCE.

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CHAMBERS OF
MICHAEL BURKE-GAFFNEY QC

This large set of Chambers has vacancies for a SIK and one or more Juniors of at least 7 years call.

We undertake a wide range of general and specialist work, including development, building and land-related matters of all descriptions, professional negligence and personal injury, commercial, intellectual property, public law and serious crime.

Applications or informal enquiries (which will be treated in the strictest confidence) may be made to

The Head of Chambers,
Michael Burke-Gaffney QC
Lamb Building, Temple, London EC4Y 7AS
Telephone 01-353 6701

SOLICITOR
Australian
Law Firm
with offices in
PAPUA NEW
GUINEA

main a motivated Solicitor (minimum two year after admission) for position of ASSOCIATE in Port Moresby. Work is commercial for demanding corporate clients. Salary equivalent £12,000 p.a. in local currency with tax free benefits of £10,000 after two years service.

Partnership offered thereafter in Brisbane. Australian apartment, car and four weeks annual leave (with home airfare) provided.

Reply with C.V. to C. Coody, 6A Via Vista Road, Broadbeach, QLD Australia. Facsimile (61 75) 315 296 by the 15th March 1990.

LAW GRADUATES - TAX CONSULTANCY

LONDON AND NATIONWIDE TO £15,000

Quality as a Tax Consultant within this well-known international firm of Chartered Accountants. Working as part of a specialist team, projects will include tax planning for mergers, acquisitions and buy-outs and handling venture capital assignments.

You should demonstrate a keen interest in the financial world and strong interpersonal skills. Minimum 12 UCCA points and 2-1 degree essential.

Current opportunities exist in London, Birmingham, Reading, Leeds and Manchester.

To discuss in more detail, contact TERESA GASTON on 01-404 3155 (Days) or 01-853 1715 (Evenings) or send your CV to ALDERWICK PEACHELL AND PARTNERS LTD, 125 High Holborn, London WC1V 6QA. (Rec Conf).

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LITIGATION
VACANCIES
IN ALL AREAS
01-236 4625

SOLICITOR

Excellent Salary + Partnership Prospects NW
Experienced in Commercial field, drawing up business contracts, commercial conveyancing and ability to deal with clients is essential. Urgent

Please contact K. Giffin on 01-282 7505 or FAX 01-282 8228. Personal Services, 35 Watford Way, NW4 3JN.

LAWYER with experience of matrimonial and commercial law required for London office. Please write to 8222 811.

WEST GRAFT Legal Services has an excellent reputation for providing a high calibre and very personal service more akin to a boutique law firm than a recruitment consultancy. We charge our clients far less than the market rate for our services which has gained us an extensive and a high quality person wishing to advance their career we will give you the professional service you deserve. Please Mrs Henderson, West Graft Legal, 01 855 2002.

Legal Advisers

to £34,355

The Home Office is seeking barristers or solicitors with good academic qualifications to fill one or two posts in the small team of lawyers in Central London who form its Legal Advisers Branch.

Our work covers a wide variety of important Government business including responsibilities for the criminal law and the administration of criminal justice; public order and the prevention of terrorism; extradition; the police, prison, fire and probation services; race relations; immigration and nationality; sex discrimination; broadcasting; drugs; gaming; obscenity; elections and firearms control.

In these areas you will be required to provide legal advice to Ministers and senior civil servants; to assist in the preparation of Bills; brief Ministers and attend Parliament during a Bill's passage; and draft subordinate legislation. Much of the work has an international dimension involving foreign travel. In particular you may be required to attend proceedings before the institutions of the European Community and, in the area of human rights, before those of the Council of Europe in Strasbourg.

Often at the centre of affairs, your work will be unusually interesting and demanding, requiring a high level of legal ability and versatility. You will be given early responsibility for advising on a number of matters. Home Office work is performed in small teams - your contribution is vital.

Job satisfaction is considerable.

Salary: Legal Officers will start on at least £17,585 including London Weighting. Applicants with greater experience may be appointed at Grade 7 with a salary (including London Weighting) ranging from £24,785 to £29,220 plus further increments, depending on performance, to a maximum of £34,355. Benefits include a first class pension scheme, interest-free season ticket loans and assistance with relocation expenses where appropriate. There are excellent prospects of further advancement for the really able lawyer.

If you would like to find out more about the work of the Home Office, please contact Anthony Ingless on 01-273 2684.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 6 March 1990) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: G/1C/576.

The Home Office welcomes applications from suitably qualified people irrespective of sex, marital status, racial origin or disability. You must however be a British or Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of the Irish Republic.

HOME
OFFICE

Continued From
Previous Page

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

01-481 4481

CORPORATE FINANCE
TO £750 MILLION

Our Client, a leading City player, has recently established a team which is fast making a name for itself in innovative capital markets work worldwide.

With an outstanding reputation for the quality of its work and client base, our Client is looking for further high calibre lawyers to keep it head and shoulders above its competitors.

The successful applicants will be dynamic, ambitious lawyers with 2-4 years' experience of corporate law and the motivation and self assurance to take on a challenging and intellectually stimulating workload involving innovative and complex transactions.

The salary package, prospects and opportunities on offer (including global travel and a swift route to partnership) will not fail to appeal.

For further information, please contact **Alistair Dougall** or **Jonathan Brenner** on 01-405 6062 (01-958 1936 evenings/weekends) or write to **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA

CORPORATE CHALLENGE
TO £50,000

Our Client, a well known and highly successful London firm, is continuing to enjoy enviable growth in its corporate and commercial practice and now seeks two further ambitious lawyers.

The corporate department handles a diverse range of work for PLCs and major private companies including mergers, acquisitions, disposals, takeovers, joint ventures, employment law and the full range of commercial agreements.

The successful candidates will ideally have 2-4 years' relevant experience, preferably in a City firm, and the confidence and ability to deal with clients at the highest level. The firm can offer quality work in a stimulating environment, a very competitive salary and excellent prospects.

For further information please contact **Alistair Dougall** on 01-405 6062 (01-773 3702 evenings/weekends) or write to him at **Quarry Dougall Recruitment**, 9 Brownlow Street, London WC1V 6JD.



UNITED KINGDOM • HONG KONG • NEW ZEALAND • AUSTRALIA

COMMERCIAL
SOLICITORS
FOR THE
CAYMAN ISLANDS

Major law firm in the Cayman Islands requires two Commercial Solicitors:

1. Applicants should have at least 2 years post-qualifying Commercial experience with a major firm preferably in the City.
2. Applicants should have 3-5 years post-qualifying experience, at least 2 of which should be with a Commercial department of a major firm in the City.

Attractive tax-free salary and benefits are offered for both positions.

Applicants should apply to **W.S. Walker & Company**, P.O. Box 265, Grand Cayman, attention: **W.S. Walker**, with curriculum vitae and photograph.

EXPANDING REQUIREMENTS
IN HOUSE COMPANY
SOLICITOR
Specialising in the
PROPERTY SECTOR

A qualified solicitor with a minimum of 5 years' experience in the property sector, preferably in a large firm, is required for a permanent position. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the property department, including the preparation of contracts, leases, and other legal documents. The position offers a competitive salary and excellent prospects for career advancement.

For further information, please contact **Mr. D. C. Cook**, D.C. Cook Holdings plc, Brinsworth House, Westbury Road, Brinsworth, Rotherham.

PUBLIC
APPOINTMENTS

Continued on Facing Page

ENVIRONMENTAL AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION DEPARTMENT
SENIOR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
Salary £30,840 - £33,924

The Environmental and Consumer Protection Department is currently undergoing reorganisation. As a result, a new post of Senior Assistant Director has been created to enable the Department to move forward positively to meet the challenges of a radically changing environment.

The work of the department encompasses the traditional Environmental Health and Consumer Services activities as well as the Cemeteries and Crematoria, Licensing and the Client function for: Street Cleansing, Refuse Collection and Civic Catering.

The post of Senior Assistant Director has specific responsibility for the Environmental Protection and Operational Services functions, with particular emphasis on 'green-issues' and corporate responsibility for Emergency Planning.

The successful candidate will have proven management experience, ideally within a multi-disciplinary environment, with the ability to control major resources cost effectively, experience of policy formulation and sound leadership qualities. She/he will be able to demonstrate considerable awareness of current and forthcoming environmental legislation.

The culture of the organisation is such that the Senior Assistant Director will be expected to make a positive contribution to the corporate working of the Authority and will be actively involved in the development of performance monitoring systems.

The post carries a lump sum car user allowance and relocation package where appropriate.

For an informal discussion about the post, please telephone the Director, **Mr. M. Mitchell**, on 021-552-3871.

Information packages and application forms are available from: The Director of Environmental and Consumer Protection, Flash Road, Oldbury, Warley, West Midlands, B69 4AF. Telephone 021-552-3871 extn 6532.

Closing date: 2nd March 1990.

We are an equal opportunity employer. We positively welcome applications from the ethnic minorities, disabled people and women where they are under-represented in particular jobs. Canvassing of members of the authority will disqualify. Trade union membership is encouraged.

In appropriate circumstances, for jobs above Scale 3, a recruitment relocation package of up to £6,500 is available.

ONTARIO CANCER TREATMENT
AND RESEARCH FOUNDATION
NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO
REGIONAL CANCER CENTRECHIEF PHYSICIST
(CLINICAL)

The successful candidate will be responsible for developing and managing the medical physics program at this new regional cancer centre in Sudbury, Central Ontario, scheduled to open in July 1990. The centre anticipates serving 1000 new radiation patients annually rising to 2200. It will be equipped with a simulator, superficial and cobalt machines and two 6-23 Mv dual energy accelerators. Dedicated CT planning time will be available.

Reporting to the Centre Director, the Chief Physicist will supervise a department consisting of 3 physicists as well as dosimetry, mould room, electronics shop and machine shop staff. Initial responsibilities include equipment commissioning and physics staff recruitment. The individual will be encouraged to develop a research program in medical physics. An academic appointment with Laurentian University, Sudbury and/or the University of Ottawa is offered for appropriately qualified individuals.

The applicant should have a Ph.D. in physics and at least 5 years relevant experience in medical physics with demonstrated management skills. Membership of the Canadian College of Physicists in Medicine or equivalent is preferred. Bilingualism (English/French) is a definite asset. In accordance with Canadian immigration requirements preference will be given to Canadian citizens and permanent residents of Canada, but British applicants are encouraged to apply.

Remuneration is competitive and includes a geographic allowance. Relocation assistance with visa requirements and expenses is available. For further information, call 0101 705 522 0454 and reverse the charges. Applicants should send resume and names of three referees to:

Dr. Robert Corringham, M.B.
Director
NORTHEASTERN ONTARIO ONCOLOGY PROGRAM
41 Ramsey Lake Road
Sudbury, Ontario CANADA
P3E 5J1
Fax: (705) 522-4421

CALEDONIAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION/ROYAL
SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH
PERSONAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE) invites applications for a limited number of prestigious post-doctoral Personal Research Fellowships to be funded by Caledonian Research Foundation (CRF) and the Scottish Education Department (SED).

CRF / RSE Fellowships will be for research in the biomedical sciences. SED / RSE Fellowships may be in any discipline.

These Fellowships are for research in Scottish Universities or Central Institutions and are available from October 1, 1990 for up to three years. Salaries will be on appropriate research grades. In Universities these are grades 1A and 2 (presently in the range £12,381-£20,469); corresponding Central Institution salaries apply to Fellowships held there. Applicants should normally be aged 32 or under on date of appointment, must possess a doctorate (or equivalent higher qualification) and be able to demonstrate outstanding ability for independent research.

Further details and application forms are available from the Research Fellowships Secretary, The Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-24 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ, and applicants MUST indicate to which scheme they are applying. Application forms must be returned by March 30, 1990.

KINGSTON UPON THAMES
MAGISTRATES COURTS COMMITTEE
COURT CLERK

Salary £19,651 - £22,327
Plus £903 London Weighting

Applications are invited from Barristers/Solicitors for the above post. Applicants should be experienced and capable of taking all types of Courts without supervision. In addition they must be prepared to help in the administrative duties of the office.

Opportunities will be given to:

- broaden experience in all aspects of the operation and management of a busy court
- participate in the training of magistrates

The working environment is professional, friendly and pleasant. Flexible working arrangements apply and a generous leave allowance. A relocation package is available and a casual car user allowance is payable.

Application forms may be obtained from Mrs. A. Scott (Office Manager).

Kingston Magistrates Court
19 High Street,
KINGSTON UPON THAMES,
Surrey,
KT1 1JW.

Telephone: 01 546 5503

J.A. DAVIS
Clerk to the
Magistrates Courts Committee.

15 OLD SQUARE,
LINCOLN'S INN

The Chambers of the Hon. John Melville Williams Q.C., invites applications for tenancies from established practitioners (minimum of 5 years' call) in the following fields: commercial, construction, employment, environmental, personal injury and public law.

Applications (enclosing a C.V.) will be treated in strictest confidence and should be addressed to:

Philip Alden (Clerk to Chambers),
15 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn, London
WC2A 3UH by 2nd March 1990.

Legal
Opportunities

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E24 Commercial £4000
W21 Employment £2000
Liverpool Corporate £3000
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S24 Commercial £2000
E24 Criminal £3000
W21 General £2000
N.Wide Civil/Crim £2000

Property
E24 Commercial £4000
W21 Domestic £2000
Reading Commercial £2000
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W22 Tax/Trust £3000
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Two brilliant senior level Compa-
ny Commercial Secretaries
needed for partner's accounts - the
other an S/N required Compa-
ny. All are excellent. Ring
Phyllis 379 0394 or FAX 356
1735 (HCC Com)

**LITIGATION WINNERS/ Kent Bar-
dets.** Newly qualified and ex-
perienced solicitors wanted for
substantial firm to £25,000.
Merchandise Spott (Ayr) 01 363
7085.

**LITIGATION WINNERS/ Kent Bar-
dets.** Newly qualified and ex-
perienced solicitors wanted for
substantial firm to £25,000.
Merchandise Spott (Ayr) 01 363
7085.

PLANNING LAWYER 2 yrs exp.
Must have exp in rating valua-
tions & planning queries. Top
practice with salary to match.
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PLANNING Local Gov't Lawyer.
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highly prestigious W. End prac-
tice. Excellent salary. Phone
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هكذا من الأصل

HORIZONS

From smuggling to tax evasion

The London headquarters of Her Majesty's Customs & Excise, which has 26,500 staff throughout Britain and Northern Ireland, is at New King's Beam House, overlooking the Thames near Blackfriars.

It has a fascinating history and its responsibilities have grown from the collection of duties on goods entering and leaving the country to include new forms of revenue, such as excise tax in the 17th century and VAT in the 20th. Customs & Excise has always had to adapt and recruitment practice has recently been under review. As well as taking a new approach with careers talks and videos for schools, libraries and exhibitions, senior executive officer Frank Dover is considering the impact of demographic changes. "We can no longer rely on our traditional intake of school-leavers," he says. Numbers are going down, increasing competition for suitably qualified staff.

Dover is aware that the image and recruitment methods of Customs & Excise did not reach a wider range of older, experienced potential staff. "Now we are looking at new ways of working: flexi-time, part-time, home work and job-sharing." Future possibilities include improved conditions for mothers of young children. "We are checking costs and benefits," he says. "Nursery, for instance, are needed but not necessarily at the workplace, so

A career in Customs & Excise is far from dull, reports

Bernardine Coverley



In the office: Perryman catches up on casework at headquarters

other childcare facilities are being considered as well." Once recruited, staff have the option of remaining in a preferred section or moving through the departments. Although the customs officer remains the better known aspect, VAT is now the primary area of work for about half the staff. There are 900

regional offices including about 90 VAT offices. Meeting the public involves communication skills and a grasp of accounting transactions.

It is not unusual to spend a few years in VAT and then move into an area of work that appears to be very different, such as import control. A declaration must be submitted for all goods entering the country and these must be checked to ensure the correct amount of duty has been paid. At sea ports the crew sign clearance papers and cargoes are selected at random and opened to verify contents. Confidence, tact and alertness are essential for a job that includes looking for hidden differences between descriptions and actual goods.

Certain items entering the country require Department of Trade and Industry licences and some technical equipment needs export licences, particularly high technology goods that could be adapted for military purposes.

Promotion exercises are held every year and there is every opportunity to move up the ladder, with appropriate in-service training. Executive grades are required to be mobile geographically and may be offered a move to different parts of the country.

The specialist divisions welcome officers with wide experience within the service. These range from "investigation" - working on serious frauds or smuggling offences - to "training", which involves providing



In the field: Chris Perryman visits a scrap yard to check the accounts as part of his job as a VAT inspector

vocational courses for new staff and management courses for executive officers.

Chris Perryman, 29, joined Customs & Excise in 1978 and has worked his way up through several areas to his present post in the VAT office at Basildon, Essex.

"I was in college and wasn't sure what I wanted to do, then I had the chance to join Customs at Tilbury

Docks. I liked the work and when my A level results came through I was promoted to executive officer grade. First I was assistant officer in a specialized baggage post, performing the sort of role that everyone associates with Customs. I could meet people and there was more to it than just being the man in the red or green channel. I was also dealing with

freight, boarding ships to check clearance papers and patrolling.

"As a customs officer I worked all the way down the Thames and took part in surveillance exercises - Tilbury is a local 'main risk' area for drugs coming in from West African ports."

The VAT man or woman needs confidence and an easy manner, as much of the work is to help traders

to understand a system that may seem just another obstacle to bookkeeping. "You have to understand how the chap operates his business and how the accounts work," Perryman says. "It may be a builder or an accountant and not everyone is an expert bookkeeper. Some people I may visit two or three times a year."

At the lowest executive grade, a VAT officer would be responsible for visits to four or five businesses a week. Landing companies, such as Ford, are assigned a full-time employee from the local VAT office. Perryman combines visits to two or three large-scale traders a week with supervising staff, training and office administration.

"Eventually I may move back into Customs or come up into the City headquarters and maybe get involved in the policy-making," he says. "It's very flexible; although obviously it depends on what vacancies are available at the time. It's not just one little niche."

Administrative grades are recruited locally. Entry requirements are GCSE or written test. Information from Jobcentres and Customs & Excise offices. Executive officers are recruited through the Civil Service Commission. Entry requirements are a degree or at least two A levels, plus written test and interview. Information from HM Customs & Excise, Personnel Division A, 3 New King's Beam House, 22 Upper Ground, London SE1 9PT.

01-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Continued on next page

DEVON FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEE (Family Health Services Authority designate)

SENIOR MANAGEMENT POSTS

The management arrangements are being re-organised to meet new and existing challenges in the development of primary care throughout the county. The following new first and second level posts have been created:

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE (Spine point 11, £26,640) (Readvertisement). To head up the accounts function, negotiate new contractual payments, ensure value for money and lead the income generation initiative. This senior officer must be analytical, forward thinking and a self-developer.

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS (Spine point 15, £22,620) (Readvertisement). Heading up the operational affairs of the FPC, including registration, this manager will be responsible for the majority of services within the FPC, including personnel, quality assurance, training and public relations. The postholder will have final determination and initiative.

RESEARCH AND INFORMATION MANAGER (Spine point 16, £21,750). To be responsible to the Director of Planning for co-ordinating all information functions within the FPC and leading the information strategy. Responsible for hardware and software development in the I.T. programme. The postholder will develop new areas of research in the primary care field as a basis for new programmes and developments.

All applicants should be appropriately qualified and ready to accept the challenge of developing better services for health care in the 1990's.

For further details telephone Exeter (0392) 75242, Ext. 203 or ring Eddie Herbert, General Manager for an informal discussion.

Curriculum vitae, giving two referees, returnable to the General Manager, Devon F.P.C., Cecil Bayall House, Southborough East, Exeter EX1 1RB.

Closing date: 25th February, 1990.

UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL FACULTY OF LAW

As part of a major planned development in Law applications are invited for the following posts:

Senior Lecturer Initial salary either £21,489 or £22,176 per annum on a scale rising to £24,283 per annum. This is a new post. From a strong research base the appointee will be expected to make a substantial contribution to the research output of the Faculty and to participate fully in its further development.

NAAS Lecturer Initial salary within the range £10,458 - £20,469 per annum on the Lecturer A or B scale as appropriate. Whilst there is no formal age limit, in accordance with the terms of the initiative to bring younger staff into the profession, it is likely that preference will be given to candidates at an early stage in their careers.

Lecturer Initial salary within the range £10,458 - £12,875 per annum on the Lecturer A scale. This post will be offered for three years in the first instance and is likely to be renewed thereafter. These posts are not restricted to applicants with any specific research or teaching interests but, within the overall set of appointments, the Faculty would particularly welcome applications from those with an interest in any of the broad fields of commercial/professional law, the law of the EEC, property law, family or welfare law.

Informal enquiries to Professor Peter Rowe (051-794 2805). Applications, by cv, with the names of three referees, should be received not later than 9 March 1990, by The Director of Staffing Services (AS), The University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool, L69 3BX, from whom further particulars may be obtained. Quote ref. RV/608/7T.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

WOLVERHAMPTON HEALTH AUTHORITY

The Royal Hospital and Eye Infirmary ASSOCIATE UNIT GENERAL MANAGER

Senior Managers Pay Point 14 - £23,520pa

The Authority operates a Car Lease Scheme

A key post exists within our Acute Unit Management structure with responsibility for strategic, tactical and operational management processes within the Unit.

As well as being a member of the Unit Management Board, processing the 'core' business of the Unit, you will also ensure business and administrative support to the Clinical Directorates.

To be successful you will need a proven record of 'management effectiveness' demonstrating achievements and responsibility in your career to date.

For information package and application form please contact: Paul Barnett on 0902 307721.

For an informal discussion please call: Greg Pike, Unit General Manager, on 0902 732235 ext 2551.

CASPE LIMITED

ONE SENIOR MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT AND TWO JUNIOR CONSULTANTS

CASPE Ltd. is a small but fast growing specialist health service consultancy based at the King's Fund in West London. We have expertise in several fields that are important today, including business planning, capital asset effectiveness, information strategies, contracting, quality measures and DRGs. We have contracts to help over 30 units prepare for the 1991 changes.

We need to recruit at least one senior consultant and two more junior team members immediately. They will be offered excellent conditions of employment and rewarding contracts; they will already be well qualified and have managerial or financial experience, at least some of which will be with health care organisations; they will be prepared to work extremely hard and will enjoy operating at varied levels within customers' organisations.

Telephone enquiries for more information may be made to one of the three CASPE directors shown below. Potential applicants offering appropriate skills or experience, who wish to share in the growth of the 11 year old CASPE group should call James Coles, Frank Jackson or Iden Wickings on 01-229 8739.

SURREY FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENTS MANAGER

GRADE 6 : Salary up to £14,934 inclusive of London Weighting

(To be re-graded to senior managers pay)

An opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic and self motivated individual to join our dynamic management team to evaluate and implement the changes in the primary health care services. Surrey FPC is situated in Surbiton and is one of the largest and most complex FPCs in the country.

You will be responsible for developing and maintaining the FPCs role in monitoring GP prescribing, the Indicative Drugs budget scheme and the GP Fund Holding Scheme. The post involves working closely with FPC medical and other prescribing advisers, liaising with and visiting all appropriate GP practices and maintaining a computerised information system.

Applicants should have a high level of communication skills, a knowledge of NHS systems and computer experience. The post would suit a Graduate or other suitably professionally qualified person or a person studying for professional qualifications.

For an informal discussion regarding this post please contact Anne Sutcliffe, General Manager on Ext. 256.

Further information and job description available from Jan Burrell, Personnel Officer, Surrey FPC, 187 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey, KT6 6AU. Tel. 01 399 5133 Ext. 254.

Closing Date: Friday, 16th March, 1990.

Eastman Dental Hospital

Special Health Authority

GENERAL MANAGER

c £38,000 DGM 3

This London postgraduate health authority wishes to appoint a General Manager with proven professional qualifications to lead its flagship in dentistry into the new NHS reforms. Trust status has been applied for.

Relevant professional qualifications and substantial experience at top management level are essential.

The starting salary is £238,000 and in addition performance related pay may be earned.

Further information may be obtained from the Personnel Manager (tel/ 01 837 3646 ext. 2003). Applications to Mr J Michael Edwards, CBE, QC, Chairman of the SHA, Eastman Dental Hospital, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8LD by 1st March 1990.

LONDON REGIONAL PASSENGERS' COMMITTEE (readvertisement) PART-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Interested in working for the transport consumer movement? LRPC, the London passengers' watchdog body, has a vacancy for a part-time (15 hours per week) research assistant to help with analysis of data and surveys of service quality. Hands-on experience of micro-computers would be useful.

Salary scale (under review) £3,752 - 24,433, including London Weighting.

For further details and an application form, contact LRPC, Golden Cross House, 8 Duncannon Street, London WC2N 4JF (01-639 1898).

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

PROJECT MANAGER

Salary: £22,620pa

The newly formed Capital Project and Estate Department is looking for enthusiastic people to join them in Project Management for the East Anglian Region, covering Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire.

Project Managers are responsible to the Chief Project and Estate Manager for a number of Major Projects throughout the Region above £1m. Each Project Manager will be assisted by an Assistant Project Manager.

Applicants from any discipline will be expected to have experience in planning and/or Building/Estate Management.

For an informal discussion please contact: Mr John Yates, Chief Project and Estate Manager, on extension 232. Application form and job description from: The Personnel and Administration Directorate, Union Lane, Cambridge CB4 1AR. Tel 0223 61212 ext 368.

Closing date: February 22, 1990.

PUBLIC FINANCE

Wexham Park Hospital

SLOUGH, BERKSHIRE

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

Salary £28,620 per annum

Plus Performance Related Pay.

Lease Car and relocation expenses available.

An enthusiastic and imaginative Accountant is required to join the Management Team of Wexham Park Hospital in Slough.

This is an exciting opportunity to take charge of financial activity in a busy District General Hospital at a time of major change. Wexham Park is a modern 900 bed hospital which provides services in all the major specialties and has many first class facilities. It is about to launch a major development of information systems and become involved in new management initiatives within the N.H.S. The appointment of a Director of Finance is key to the continuing development of Management within the hospital.

The Director will work closely with the General Manager and with Consultants, will contribute financial expertise to decision making at Board level and play a leading part in investment and business planning and in the development of contractual arrangements with purchasing authorities. The Director will be actively involved in the Resource Management Initiative.

Potential candidates may contact Mr Chris Burke for an informal discussion. Further information may be obtained from the Personnel Department, Wexham Park Hospital, Slough, SL2 4HL. Telephone (0753) 34567.

Closing date Friday 9th March.

LEGAL

Continued on next page

Principal Assistant Solicitor

Local Salary Grade ED 4/5 (PO points 41-48) £18,225 - £21,510

Free Lease Car (Benchmark Sierra GL)

Generous Relocation Expenses

Practising Certificate & Professional Subscription

The Council is looking for an experienced Solicitor to lead the legal services section of the Chief Executive's Department. Applicants will need to demonstrate experience relevant to the work of a shire district council, with particular emphasis on planning law and practice and other areas involving or leading to advocacy.

This is an ideal opportunity for an ambitious person to profit from experience and gain advancement to a senior post, and at the same time, benefit from living and working in one of the most beautiful and sought after areas of the country.

Application form, job description and further particulars are available from the Personnel Section, EDDC, The Council Offices, Knowle, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8HL. Tel (0395) 616551 ext 354. For an informal discussion on any aspect, contact Peter Knighting in the Chief Executive's Department on ext 312.

Closing date: 2nd March 1990.

This council has adopted a positive policy in respect of the employment of disabled people.



EAST DEVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Winnie The Witch has chance to cast winning spell again

By Mandarini
(Michael Phillips)

Following that victory by five lengths at Leicester, Winnie The Witch appeals as a sporting bet to win the Tiffed Handicap Hurdle at Towcester today, and she is my nap.

Even after making every allowance for the fact that the handicapper has had time in which to reassess her, Ken Bridgwater's mare still does not look overburdened with 11 stone.

What the Leicester race proved was that she will not be inconvenienced by either today's distance or the current soft going underfoot.

Also, it is pertinent to add that her success that day did not take connections by surprise even though she started at 11-1.

For prior to that she was the subject of a gamble from 16-1 down to 8-1 to make a winning reappearance at Warwick, only to fall two hurdles from the finish when still going conspicuously well.

Today the opposition, headed by the disappointing steeplechaser Davy's Weir, does not look particularly strong.

King's Rank will obviously attract support because he is trained by Martin Pipe. Yet even he is far from unbeatable as his record this season shows.

Basket Weave and True Loop, two who could win at



Jimmy Frost, who teams up again with Kamadoor these weights, were both disappointing last time, unlike Winnie the Witch, who looks poised to cast her spell to good effect again.

At her best, Lisanel Lady should be thereabouts at the end of the Hoechst Panacur EBF Mares Only Novices Hurdle Qualifier, but as she was so disappointing last time when starting favourite, having finished second at Wincanton the time before, I am much more inclined to go for Frank Jordan's five-year-old First Crack, who came good by five lengths at Warwick last time.

Otherwise, it could easily pay to follow the fortunes of Toby Balding's promising but rather unlucky novices Halmajor (2.0) and Woodhoopoe (3.0), even though they both parted company with their rider last time.

Following promising efforts at Folkestone, Halmajor was going strongly (like a winner in the eyes of many) when he fell at the fourth-last fence at Wolverhampton eight days ago.

Now the Louise Stockdale Challenge Cup looks the ideal consolation prize, especially since his trainer has a perfect line on Uncle Raggy through Kamadoor, my selection to win the Bet With The Tote Novices Chase Qualifier later in the programme.

Kamadoor appeared to be going better than Uncle Raggy at the last meeting on this same Northamptonshire track when he misjudged the last fence and unseated his rider.

So Jimmy Frost's mount smacks of a winner without a penalty.

On the all-weather surface at Southwell, I like the look of Apres Huit's chance of beating Halmajor again in the Ashkan Handicap.

When they met over the same course and distance a fortnight ago, Apres Huit won by 2½ lengths. But with Autodrive penalised 7lb for winning at Lingfield in the meantime, Apres Huit is now 2lb better off.

Otherwise, it should pay to follow those prolific course specialists Irish Passage (2.10) and Woodhoopoe (3.40).

Blinkered first time SOUTHWELL 3.40 Dollar Sealer.

Flying Ace carries on the good work

Point-to-point by Brian Beel

That marvellous campaigner Flying Ace carried on his 14th year and a 10lb penalty to win his 32nd race on his seasonal debut in the ladies' open at the Haydon point-to-point on Saturday.

Corder Cadd led the lead on the first fence, but to jump and, although Willow Wood challenged at the next, Flying Ace kept up his task and ran on to win by three lengths. This initiated the first leg of a double for him who went on to take the first division of the restricted on Snooker.

Douglas Brig started at 2-1 on for the first of the Land Rover qualifiers, but backers soon knew the race when he fell at the fifth fence. Polygram, 30 lengths adrift at the start, went into a clear lead after two miles but weakened rapidly and at the second last was headed by Bronzeflower.

Simon Bell, however, was tracking on Blue Ravine and this combination went ahead approaching the last and sprang up the run-in to open up a 10-length gap by the post.

There was a first winner at the East County for 20-year-old Ross Daker, a pupil assistant to David Barons, when Brunsford improved upon his second of last week to win the hurdle race.

In winning the top-class St. Nicholas, Flying Ace carried on his 14th year and a 10lb penalty to win his 32nd race on his seasonal debut in the ladies' open at the Haydon point-to-point on Saturday.

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Folkestone in doubt

By Brian Beel

Although having only won a maiden point-to-point in 1988, MOOR SCOPE was thrown in at the deep end in hatter chase last season when he performed creditably but without success.

He could cause a surprise in the Mares Handicap Chase at Towcester (3.30) today, when he is in receipt of a stone from most of the others, the best of which may be True Bloom and Father Brady.

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First Irish challenger for Popham

By Christopher Goulding

Panto Prince, who has returned from his two-year break in the field, runs in Saturday's Vincent O'Brien Irish Gold Cup at Leopardstown.

The nine-year-old will be Chris Popham's first runner in Ireland. He will fly his own colours on the day as he does not enjoy staying away from home, explained Sean Popham, the trainer's wife. "The break has done him a lot of good and we are very hopeful."

Michael Powell, who was successful at Leopardstown last Saturday on Nomadic Way in the Wessel Cable Champion Hurdle, will have the ride.

Nick Brier, winner of the Peter Marsh Chase at Haydock, was also confirmed a definite runner.

Ireland's principal hope for the three-mile contest will be Carvill's Hill, the impressive winner of the race last year and successful in last Saturday's Harold Clarke Chase at Leopardstown.

Maid Of Money, from John Fowler's Co. Meath stable, will also be in the line-up and hoping to record a second victory. Last time out at Cheltenham, the mare ruined her chance by continually making jumping errors when runner-up to Toby Tobias.

Nottingham racecourse is taking measures to insure good conditions will be not deter Nicky Henderson from running See You Then in Saturday's City Trial Hurdle.

"We shall be moving the rails to make as much free ground as possible round the bends and on the run-in," explained David Henson, the clerk of the course.

Henderson, who has been in charge of the triple champion hurdler after numerous abandoned fixtures, said: "The timing of Saturday's race is ideal, but my only worry is what state the track will be after racing yesterday."

Mole Board's participation in Saturday's Nottingham City Trial Hurdle will not be known until he has galloped tomorrow.

Wednesday morning and come to a decision after that," said Jim Old yesterday. "Otherwise, it will have to be the Kingwell Pattern Hurdle at Wincanton next week."

Toureen Prince offers Festival pointer

By Paul Wheeler

Several Cheltenham festival candidates were on show at Nottingham yesterday, and none was more impressive than the Henrietta Knight-trained Toureen Prince, the two-year-old winner of the Racing Post Novices Chase qualifier.

Up the front throughout, the seven-year-old came home in the style of a 5-4 on favourite for Ronnie Beggan.

Toureen Prince started his days in Ireland. "He came over from Paddy McGuire and he's been with me for about three weeks," Miss Knight said.

And the boy gelding was not hindered by the testing conditions. "He's won on a yielding surface and he's been in the ring for ever and is a most relaxed horse, the Waite trainer said.

"He'll go for the Sam Alliance Chase, with neither race before if we can. This might be my only runner at the Festival."

Her other chasing star, De- cided, will reappear here on Saturday. "Decided will not run at Cheltenham," she said.

West Tip, winner of the 1986 Grand National and who has been placed in the last three National, made his seasonal debut in the Daylight Dell Hurdle Chase.

The 13-year-old showed he could still be a force to be reckoned with in this year's Aintree marathon when finishing a promising third behind the 25-length winner, Chatterbox.

His owner, Peter Luff, was delighted with the veteran's performance, while Sarah Oliver, wife of trainer Michael Oliver, reported: "The plan is to return here at the end of the month. The main targets would be the Christmas Festival at the Festival followed by a steeple chase at Aintree."

Another veteran, Alan Ar Agall, who finished fourth, will bypass Cheltenham in favour of Aintree's Sagamore Festival.

Nearly tailed off at half-way, the 13-year-old made significant progress in the closing stages. "He just wants better ground, said trainer Stan Mellor, adding: "He was jumping well but

TOWCESTER

Selections

By Mandarini

1.30 Warm Winter.
2.00 Halmajor.
2.10 First Crack.
3.00 Kamadoor.

3.30 Father Brady.
4.00 WINNIE THE WITCH (nap).
4.30 Tag Of Gold.

By Michael Seely

2.00 Chastity. 4.00 WINNIE THE WITCH (nap).
The Times Favourite Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 Halmajor.
Brian Beel's selection: 3.00 Moor Scope.

Going: soft

1.30 SILVERSTONE SELLING HURDLE (21.716: 2m) (15 runners)

1. 001 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
2. 002 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
3. 003 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
4. 004 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
5. 005 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
6. 006 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
7. 007 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
8. 008 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
9. 009 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
10. 010 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
11. 011 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
12. 012 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
13. 013 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
14. 014 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
15. 015 CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57

1.30 CANXAS 4-10-7 M Hand (5-1) R Hand 10 m

FORM FOCUS CHASTITY 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
Chastity 22 (A) (G) (M) 11-10. D. McGowan 57
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2.00 LOUISE STOCKDALE CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: 22.790: 3m 190yds) (12 runners)

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2.00 HOCHST PANACUR EBF MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: 21.995: 2m) (18 runners)

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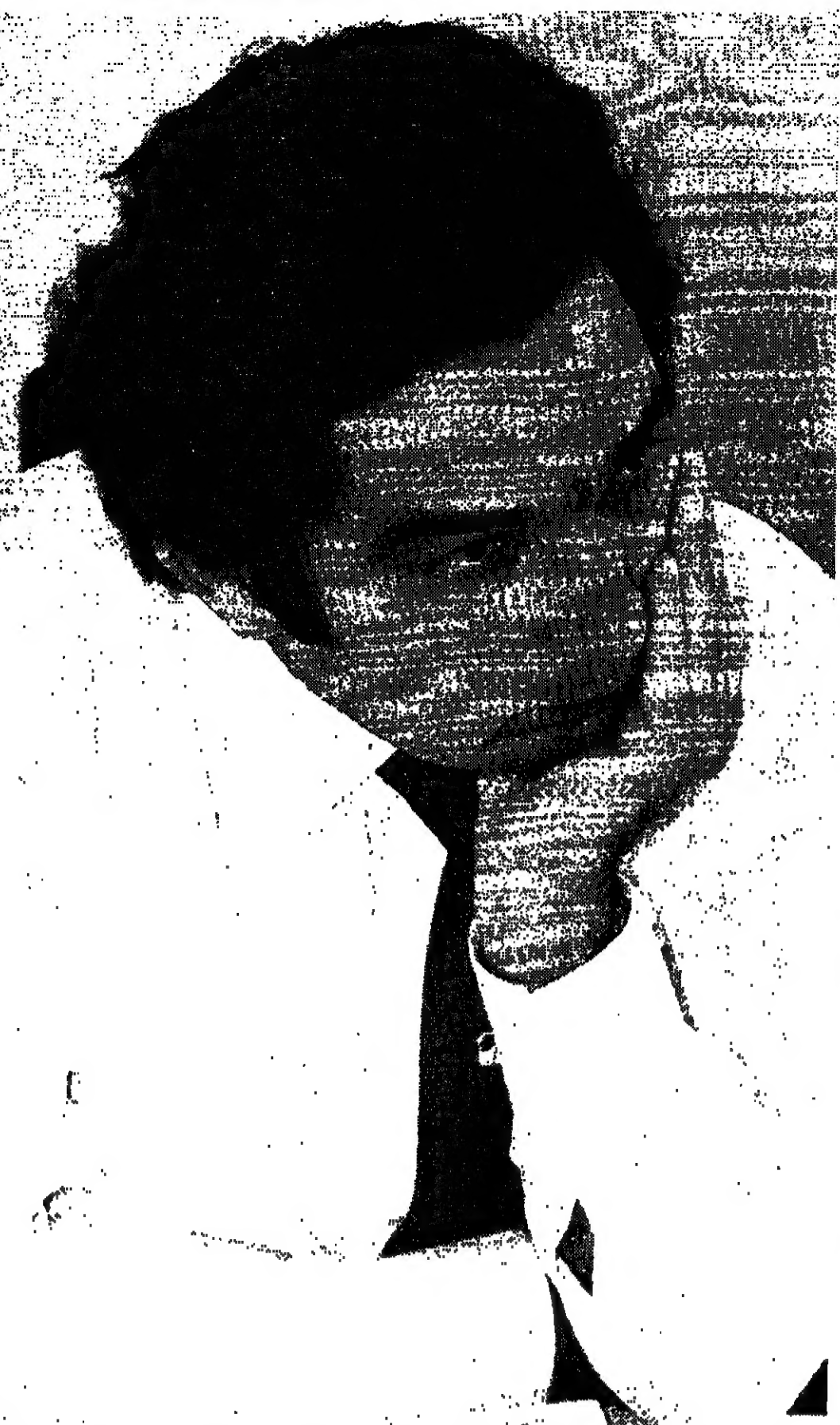
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The man charged with keeping cricket alive in South Africa tells Richard Streeton why the divisive Gating tour went ahead

Bacher is convinced his course is correct



At the centre of the storm: Ali Bacher, who organized the controversial visit by the English players

Johannesburg
As the tour by Mike Gatting's English XI reaches the halfway stage, nobody can be certain whether protests against the visit will decrease or intensify now that Nelson Mandela has been released. A second five-day international starts in Cape Town on Friday and then seven one-day matches complete the programme.

The demonstrations so far, though regretted, have not been on the scale predicted, according to Dr Ali Bacher, managing director of the South African Cricket Union (SACU). This confirms SACU's belief that the tour is not a core issue in South African politics, Bacher said in answer to questions submitted by *The Times*.

Bacher confirmed that the contractual commitment involving the English team to return in 1990-91 would be honoured, and he hoped the political climate would make it possible for matches to take place "in the right cricket atmosphere". Should this prove impossible it can be surmised that the English players would be found coaching and playing jobs in domestic South African cricket.

The role played by Bacher himself in recent weeks, has been perhaps the most remarkable facet of an eventful period in cricket history. While never wavering in a determined crusade to see the tour completed he has simultaneously acted as a mediator between protesters and police and has also liaised closely with the South African government.

Bacher, son of a Lithuanian Jew who fled from the European holocaust and arrived in South Africa with nothing, was a solid, dependable batsman, who was Transvaal captain at 21 and led South Africa to a 4-0 victory over the Australians in 1969-70, in the last official Test series the republic played.

He earned widespread admiration for his work in non-white hospitals and in recent years has proved one of the world's most outstanding cricket administrators.

Q: How close has this tour come to cancellation, remembering it seems to have been overtaken by political events, such as the release of Nelson Mandela and the government's internal reforms? Surely it has been an irritant to the authorities?

A: During November 1989, the full board of the South African Cricket Union met the National Sports Congress, a body which is opposed to the tour. The NSC wished us to cancel the tour and

could guarantee us nothing in return.

The SACU is most sympathetic to many of the policies and philosophies of the NSC, in particular that all sportsmen should have equal rights and opportunities. We do not believe, however, that a sports boycott is beneficial to South African cricket. The SACU was formed in 1977 as a non-racial body and we are proud of our efforts on behalf of all South African sportsmen. We strongly believe we do not any longer deserve to be isolated from international competition. As sports administrators we have a primary duty to our cricketers to provide our top players with the best possible competition.

Immediately following the meeting with the NSC, the full board of the SACU re-looked at the tour issue in the light of the representations from the NSC. It was unanimously decided to proceed with the tour. One board member has subsequently had second thoughts but the decision of the board stands.

At no stage since the above meetings has cancellation of the tour been seen as a serious option.

Regarding the political events, we are naturally sensitive to the importance of the changes taking place in South Africa. As responsible administrators, we met with a senior cabinet minister to establish whether the cricket tour could in any way jeopardize the promised programme of reform by the government. We were assured that it would not. The unbanning of organizations such as the African National Congress and the release of Mr Mandela, which have occurred during the tour, are proof that this tour has not retarded the reform process.

Another move by the SACU to test opinion was to commission an independent Markinor/Gallup poll which was conducted among black, coloured and Asian South Africans. The scientific poll found that those blacks who had an opinion favoured the tour by close to a two-to-one majority.

Q: In your own mind, what has the tour achieved? Your critics point to the civil disturbances that have followed; your cricket development scheme in the townships has been put at risk; and other South African sporting bodies such as the Olympic committee have said that their own cause is not being helped by the cricketers' visit?

A: The two most important objectives of the SACU are: (1) to develop cricket at grass-roots level, of which the township programme is a crucially important element; (2) to maintain

standards at the highest level of the game.

The visit of the English team helps us to fulfil the second goal by providing our best players with strong international opposition for the first time in three years. It provides an opportunity for some 200,000 South Africans to attend the matches, and for millions of all population groups to watch on television.

We naturally regret any disturbances that have been linked to the tour but accept that in turbulent times of change such events are possible. The protest against the tour have not been on the scale predicted, which confirms our belief that the tour is not a core issue in South African politics. Furthermore, there has been dialogue between ourselves and the protest leaders which has established various ground rules for peaceful protest, which has been a positive development.

Because of political pressure, several development schemes have been put on hold. I expect cricket to continue to thrive in the townships because the children that have been exposed to the game love it dearly. Their aspirations have been raised and it is important that the momentum of the programme is not allowed to peter out, whether I am in charge of it or anyone else. For my part, if other organizations have the drive, the motivation and the enthusiasm to satisfy the aspirations of these young cricketers I would not hesitate in encouraging our existing sponsors to continue to promote the game in the townships.

Cricket was a leader in non-racial sport in South Africa and our conscience is clear vis à vis other sports. I do not believe the tour will in any way hinder efforts by other sports bodies to gain recognition.

Q: Leaving aside the media coverage, whose tone I know has disappointed you in several instances, what are the other aspects of the tour that you wish had turned out differently?

A: It is a pity that on this short tour, the English cricketers have been unable to make a direct impact on our political situation. I hope this will be different on their second visit next season.

Also, the new phenomenon of demonstrations has undoubtedly had a negative effect on crowd attendances.

On a purely cricket note, I would have wished for the first Test match to have been played on a pitch which would have provided a more even contest between bat and ball.

Q: You have been known to say

that you disapprove of apartheid but love cricket more and that the game in South Africa would wither and die without the stimulus of international competition. What originally converted you to the belief that apartheid was wrong and how much anger or criticism do you feel from Afrikaners day in day out? Any personal threats?

A: As a young doctor at Baragwanath hospital on the outskirts of Soweto I came into contact with many black South Africans and was aware of the oppressive laws facing black people. As a cricketer I was jolted into awareness of the wider political situation by the cancellation of the Springbok tour of England in 1970 and the tour of Australia in 1971-72. In both instances I had been appointed captain. I became aware that our cricket was run on racial lines and that we deserved to be excluded from the international game.

I have been criticized for my commitment to non-racial principles and my stand in favour of peaceful demonstrations, but this criticism does not stem entirely from Afrikaners-speaking South Africans, nor has it been on a scale to cause me undue worry. I also receive many messages of support from a wide cross-section of our community.

I have not received any personal threats that have been genuinely menacing.

Q: Looking to the future, you consistently hedge about next season's return visit by the English cricketers. Will you be reconsidering whether this takes place and what factors would be involved in your thinking?

A: We have a contractual commitment to the players for two seasons and will honour this. We hope that the climate at the end of the year will make it possible for the English players to play cricket in South Africa in the right cricket atmosphere.

Q: What steps can SACU take next in their dealings with the International Cricket Council? The ICC continues to show few signs publicly that it wishes to have anything to do with you.

A: The ICC sent a fact-finding delegation to South Africa in 1979 which found that the SACU was a non-racial, effective controlling body. That report was shelved. Since then, a delegation of the SACU has gone to London every year to maintain contact with international administrators. We intend to maintain such contacts in the belief that eventually justice will prevail and a non-racial Springbok team, picked on merit, will take to the field in official Test matches.

CRICKET: THE CARNIVAL IS OFFICIALLY OVER FOR GOOCH'S PLAYERS AS THEY ARE FORCED TO CONFRONT THE SEVERE REALITIES OF A CARIBBEAN TOUR

Practice will not paper over England's cracks

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Port of Spain, Trinidad

They may not know it yet, but in the course of yesterday morning England's innocents abroad left paradise behind and confronted the severe realities of a Caribbean tour.

For almost three weeks, since leaving their wintry, windswept homes, the young men in England's rawest tour party for years have lived an illusory existence in the sort of holiday hotels where the fabulously wealthy squander a little of their fortunes. In their Barbados villas, on the stunning cliff tops of St Kitts and in their beachside retreat on St Lucia it must have been easy for them to scoff at all the trepidation which surrounds a West Indian campaign.

Even the cricket has been somehow unreal. Against the might of the Leeward Islands they declined to enforce the follow-on and might have lost; against the modest Windward Islands they followed on themselves and almost won. Neither game had the constituents of relentless fast bowling and untrustworthy pitches on which West Indian legend is founded.

As preparation it may have had limited use but it is as well for England's 14 Caribbean newcomers that they left St Lucia yesterday reflecting on what was so nearly a remarkable victory rather than, as seemed more apposite, a defeat of undignified proportions. They may still have lost, but a precious measure of pride was salvaged.

They need all the pride they can muster right now. For the next 45 days they will not see a beach, they will be among businessmen not holiday-makers, and they will live in city hotels from which they will wander, after dark, at their peril.

By the time they emerge from six and a half weeks in the cities of Port of Spain, Kingston and Georgetown they will be fully conversant with the mental and physical demands of a West Indies series. If, by the time they fly gratefully back to Barbados, they remain in contention, English cricket will have undeniable cause to celebrate that brave but elusive new world.

Sadly, such an outcome seems more fanciful now than at any time since the planning began. If the match in St Lucia was England's dress rehearsal for the opening night then the calamity of the entire cast forgetting its lines was only mildly redeemed by a suitably theatrical final act.

It is not just that one feels England need more preparation time. It is more the underlying fear that no amount of practice will camouflage their essential mediocrity.

Graham Gooch, the captain, can hardly be expected to concur with such pessimism, at least outside his private nightmares, and yesterday, as the squad flew to Trinidad, he was still speaking of the

"confidence boost" his side received from Sunday's late twist.

"I had thought all day that we could win with a lead of 150," he said. "I was probably about right. We did not quite get enough runs but we still put them under pressure and they panicked. Our spinners bowled well."

The encouraging form of Hemmings and Medlycott, however, is minor compensation for the growing concerns of England's batting and seam bowling. Gooch addressed himself honestly enough to these problems.

"We didn't bat well in either innings, although I was pleased to see Allan Lamb make runs as he is such a key player," he said. "It was not a pitch on which you could easily judge seam bowling but we have to sort out the no-ball problem. We can't afford to bowl one, let alone more than 30 in an innings."

Gooch is confident that Small's shoulder strain will be sufficiently recovered for him to play in tomorrow's first one-day international and he is publicly phlegmatic about England's skimpy match practice. "In our position you would always like another warm-up game but this is the way things are over here."

As the only veteran of two previous Caribbean tours, Gooch knows better than anyone that, today, the carnival is officially over.

Tendulkar misses his hundred

From Qamar Ahmed Napier

Sachin Tendulkar's youthful exuberance dashed his attempt to become the youngest batsman to score a Test match century. He was out, 12 short of a maiden Test hundred, as India declared at 358 for nine.

In reply, New Zealand had scored 178 for one in their first innings when lead light stopped play on the fourth day of the second Test at McLean Park. Thirteen overs still remained to be bowled, and with rain predicted for today, the final day, the Test seems likely to end in a draw.

India resumed the fourth day's play at 348 for seven, aiming for a declaration as soon as little Tendulkar raised that first hundred. The declaration came within 20 minutes, as he was dismissed for 99, his 136 in the second Test at Adelaide last month. As a bowler, though, he finds his rhythm, and accordingly his pace, becoming increasingly elusive. Being a proud Patna, it angers him not to be a spearhead, as he likes to think, for cricket's sake, that he will be remembered to this day and go on for a while longer.

Any stability that Pakistan cricketers has mustered from Imran. He has a manner which commands respect, a background which bestows precedence, a charm which disarms opponents, and looks which prostrate the opposite side. Patrick Eagar, the cricket photographer, finds himself supplying quite as many pictures to Imran's female admirers as he would have done 40 years ago to Denis Compton's, and probably has to Vivian Richards's.

Because of the cause which Imran has embraced, it is a help to be in the public eye, and therefore to be playing international cricket. He has "voluntarily committed" himself to building in Lahore a cancer hospital for the poor, and to finding \$5 million for the purpose. As he attributes his position of strength in Pakistan to his personal performances on the field, the longer he can play with distinction the more successful

Imran's Test career in balance

From John Woodcock Sydney

Imran Khan is not letting on whether the Test match which finished here on Thursday was his last. Once already he has been persuaded out of retirement, more or less by presidential decree, and when he makes up his mind again nothing on earth will persuade him to change it.

Within the next year Pakistan are scheduled to play another 12 Test matches — three against Sri Lanka and three against New Zealand, all in Pakistan, and six in India; and they would be much the stronger for having Imran in their side. Although now 37, he is batting as well as he ever did, and he holds them together as captain in a way that no one else ever has.

As captain's innings go, it is hard to think of a better one than his 136 in the second Test at Adelaide last month. As a bowler, though, he finds his rhythm, and accordingly his pace, becoming increasingly elusive. Being a proud Patna, it angers him not to be a spearhead, as he likes to think, for cricket's sake, that he will be remembered to this day and go on for a while longer.

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he will be in raising the money he needs.

It is not so much the poverty in Pakistan as the poor standard of medical care (half the children that die there do so of curable diseases) that motivates him. He became particularly aware of it when visiting a small boy in hospital who had been born while watching the Pakistan team at practice.

Imran has never drunk alcohol in his life and never smoked. Knowing how essential it is for faster bowlers to stay fit if they are not to lose their edge in their middle and late twenties, he worships the discipline that creates a regional rivalry or "crowd identification," and takes place on half a dozen pitches that have had all the life played out of them.

Imran talks of the immense amount of talent in Pakistan cricket, but of an ineffective domestic programme which creates no regional rivalries or "crowd identification," and takes place on half a dozen pitches that have had all the life played out of them.

His days at Oxford, where he read politics and economics, he recalls with affection and gratitude. His own hero was his first cousin, Majid Khan, who was at Cambridge and, perhaps more of a fable for batting than Imran but not the same qualities of leadership.

Oxford provided intellectual intercourse of a kind which



Imran: inspiring leadership

Imran has not found since, except in a small way and for a short time with Sussex. Of the different cricketing systems he has played (in Pakistan, Australia and England) Australia's (he had a season with New South Wales) impressed him much the most, not least because of its competitiveness.

Although he thinks his two years of Packer cricket improved his game, he had had enough of it by the end of them. Playing with John Snow and Mike Procter helped him, one showing him how to bowl side on and the other coaching him in his run-up; but the banishment that went with it made him feel the need to play again for Pakistan.

Now, with 358 Test wickets

IMRAN KHAN IN TESTS

Test debut: v England, 1971.
Highest score: 136 v Australia, Adelaide, 1989-90.
Best bowling: eight for 58 v Sri Lanka, Faisalabad, 1981-82.

BATTING									
Tests	118	22	Runs	HS	100	50	Avg	St	
82	118	22	3,541	136	6	15	36.88	28	

BOWLING									
Tests	82	118	22	Runs	Wkts	BB	SI	10M	Avg
19,290	8,188	358	8-58	23	6	22.87			

Imran is one of only three players — Ian Botham and Kapil Dev are the others — to score 3,000 runs and take 300 wickets in Tests. He is the fourth highest Test bowler in Pakistan behind Richard Hadlee, Botham and Kapil Dev. He has captained Pakistan 42 times in his 82 Tests.

Statistics compiled by Richard Lockwood

Watkin hard handled

Nairobi (Reuters) — Steve

Watkin, the Glamorgan new-ball bowler, conceded 60 runs in 10.5 overs as Kenya beat the England A side by five wickets with seven balls to spare in a 55-over match here on Sunday, avenging Saturday's defeat by the same margin.

ENGLAND A
D J Bicknell & T Chubb & Dumble 73
M A Atherton & B Currell 38
"M C J" Nicholas & C Dill & Kennedy 35
"R J" Blakey not out 28
D J Bicknell not out 21
Extras (lb 5, nb 14) 19
Total (for 9 wickets dec) 350

NEW ZEALAND First Innings
T J Franklin & Kapil Dev & Watson 50
"J G" Wright not out 113
A H Jones not out 11
Extras (lb 5, nb 14) 19
Total (for 9 wickets dec) 350

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0 2-22 3-156 4-220 5-218 6-218 7-218 8-218 9-218 10-218 11-218 12-218 13-218 14-218 15-218 16-218 17-218 18-218 19-218 20-218 21-218 22-218 23-218 24-218 25-218 26-218 27-218 28-218 29-218 30-218 31-218 32-218 33-218 34-218 35-218 36-218 37-218 38-218 39-218 40-218 41-218 42-218 43-218 44-218 45-218 46-218 47-218 48-218 49-218 50-218 51-218 52-218 53-218 54-218 55-218 56-218 57-218 58-218 59-218 60-218 61-218 62-218 63-218 64-218 65-218 66-218 67-218 68-218 69-218 70-218 71-218 72-218 73-218 74-218 75-218 76-218 77-218 78-218 79-218 80-218 81-218 82-218 83-218 84-218 85-218 86-218 87-218 88-218 89-218 90-218 91-218 92-218 93-218 94-218 95-218 96-218 97-218 98-218 99-218 100-218 101-218 102-218 103-218 104-218 105-218 106-218 107-218 108-218 109-218 110-218 111-218 112-218 113-218 114-218 115-218 116-218 117-218 118-218 119-218 120-218 121-218 122-218 123-218 124-218 125-218 126-218 127-218 128-218 129-218 130-218 131-218 132-218 133-218 134-218 135-218 136-218 137-218 138-218 139-218 140-218 141-218 142-218 143-218 144-218 145-218 146-218 147-218 148-218 149-218 150-218 151-218 152-218 153-218 154-218 155-218 156-218 157-218 158-218 159-218 160-218 161-218 162-218 163-218 164-218 165-218 166-218 167-218 168-218 169-218 170-218 171-218 172-218 173-218 174-218 175-218 176-218 177-218 178-218 179-218 180-218 181-218 182-218 183-218 184-218 185-218 186-218 187-218 188-218 189-218 190-218 191-218 192-218 193-218 194-218 195-218 196-218 197-218 198-218 199-218 200-218 201-218 202-218 203-218 204-218 205-218 206-218 207-218 208-218 209-218 210-218 211-218 212-218 213-218 214-218 215-218 216-218 217-218 218-218 219-218 220-218 221-218 222-218 223-218 224-218 225-218 226-218 227-218 228-218 229-218 230-218 231-218 232-218 233-218 234-218 235-218 236-218 237-218 238-218 239-218 240-218 241-218 242-218 243-218 244-218 245-218 246-218 247-218 248-218 249-218 250-218 251-218 252-218 253-218 254-218 255-218 256-218 257-218 258-218 259-218 260-218 261-218 262-218 263-218 264-218 265-218 266-218 267-218 268-218 269-218 270-218 271-218 272-218 273-218 274-218 275-218 276-218 277-218 278-218 279-218 280-218 281-218 282-218 283-218 284-218 285-218 286-218 287-218 288-218 289-218 290-218 291-218 292-218 293-218 294-218 295-218 296-218 297-218 298-218 299-218 300-218 301-218 302-218 303-218 304-218 305-218 306-218 307-218 308-218 309-218 310-218 311-218 312-218 313-218 314-218 315-218 316-218 317-218 318-218 319-218 320-218 321-218 322-218 323-218 324-218 325-218 326-218 327-218 328-218 329-218 330-218 331-218 332-218 333-218 334-218 335-218 336-218 337-218 338-218 339-218 340-218 341-218 342-218 343-218 344-218 345-218 346-218 347-218 348-218 349-218 350-218 351-218 352-218 353-218 354-218 355-218 356-218 357-218 358-218 359-218 360-218 361-218 362-218 363-218 364-218 365-218 366-218 367-218 368-218 369-218 370-218 371-218 372-218 373-218 374-218 375-218 376-218 377-218 378-218 379-218 380-218 381-218 382-218 383-218 384-218 385-218 386-218 387-218 388-218 389-218 390-218 391-218 392-218 393-218 394-218 395-218 396-218 397-218 398-218 399-218 400-218 401-218 402-218 403-218 404-218 405-218 406-218 407-218 408-218 409-218 410-218 411-218 412-218 413-218 414-218 415-218 416-218 417-218 418-218 419-218 420-218 421-218 422-218 423-218 424-218 425-218 426-218 427-218 428-218 429-218 430-218 431-218 432-218 433-218 434-218 435-218 436-218 437-218 438-218 439-218 440-218 441-218 442-218 443-218 444-218 445-218 446-218 447-218 448-218 449-218 450-218 451-218 452-218 453-218 454-218 455-218 456-218 457-218 458-218 459-218 460-218 461-218 462-218 463-218 464-218 465-218 466-218 467-218 468-218 469-218 470-218 471-218 472-218 473-218 474-218 475-218 476-218 477-218 478-218 479-218 480-218 481-218 482-218 483-218 484-218 485-218 486-218 487-218 488-218 489-218 490-218 491-218 492-218 493-218

FOOTBALL: ROXBURGH'S MEN GO ON AN ITALIAN RECONNAISSANCE TO THE SKIRL OF THE PIPES

World Cup bonuses for Scots

From Roddy Forsyth
Genoa

The thoroughness of Scotland's preparations for their fifth consecutive appearance in the World Cup finals was once more evident yesterday as the team's arrival in Genoa, some 20 miles south of Rome.

Although the Scots have never gone beyond the first stage in the finals, the bonus payments outlined specify what the players will earn if they succeed in winning the trophy. Preparing for such an eventuality should not be construed as over-weening ambition but rather as part of the effort to leave as little as possible open to doubt.

Ernie Walker, the retiring secretary of the Scottish Football Association, who announced the payments scheme said: "It is fair to say that since the heady days of the late 1970s that money has never been a problem with us. Nobody is under the illusion that we are in the World Cup for the benefit of a small number of people. The benefits should be spread around Scottish football and we feel we have hit a proper balance."

Andy Roxburgh, the national coach, added: "The players realize that they will benefit from things such as sponsorship, increases in transfer values and even the fact that some of them will get jobs as managers later, on the strength of having played in the finals."

Each Scotland player will receive a £1,000 fee for each match in which he appears. Those who are left on the substitutes' bench will earn £650 and the unfavorites £325.

If the team qualifies for the second stage these fees will be enhanced by bonuses of £2,500, £1,000 and £500 respectively. The SFA will award £27,500 to any player who appears in every match if the team should win the trophy.

Roxburgh was happy with the success of the Scottish familiarization exercise in Italy. "The players have been exceptionally enthusiastic



The Football Association yesterday launched its successor to World Cup Willie and Bobby as the emblem of England's World Cup campaign in Italy this summer - and, in spite of all the claims of peace and goodwill, the design for 1990, modelled above by the England players Adams, Lashley, Dowie and Parker, looks remarkably as though a boot is being put into Italy (Louise Taylor writes).

Boxer shorts, baseball caps and button badges are among a range of products bearing the design to be merchandised by Wembley Stadium Ltd under a three-year, £1 million contract with the

Football Association. The design shows the word "England" alongside the emblem of a leg dressed in England socks and boot and shaped in the outline of the map of Italy.

"We have avoided anything like bulldozing, anything that is provocative, or that might cheapen the England team," Brian Wolfson, the chairman of Wembley, said. The FA and Wembley will take a 50-50 share of the turnover, which Wolfson expects "to run into seven figures". Prices range from 70p for a badge and £5 for an inflatable leg to £23 for a commemorative tankard.

Glen Kirtoun, the external affairs officer of the FA, said he hoped that the 10,000 supporters belonging to the official England Travel Club would wear the new T-shirts rather than "those ones with dreadful logos, which we heartily disapprove of".

The range will be given the hard sell at England's three forthcoming Wembley Internationals, as well as in shops at ports and airports where supporters are expected to buy on the way to the finals. The products, including tankards and headbands, will also be distributed in Italy. The FA hopes that the contract will prevent supporters being cheated by traders selling inferior products.

Roxburgh will be fully understand my problems," Ferguson said.

Scotland will play Egypt at Aberdeen in a World Cup warm-up match on May 16, the first full international to be held at Pittodrie since 1972.

In the next fortnight Roxburgh and his assistant, Craig Brown, are to try to arrange two matches during the week which the Scotland squad will spend at Estoril prior to travelling out to Italy. It is hoped to play games against Portugal and the United States.

Shooting WRAF hit back to take title

The Women's Royal Air Force won the women's inter-services rifle championship at Unbridge yesterday for a fourth successive year (Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes).

Although the WRNS had looked the likely winners on weekend form in the warm-up matches, the Air Force women produced the better average to finish nine ahead. The Army, after showing improved form earlier, fell back to third.

The Tait Trophy for the leading individual proved the closest test of the day with a tie between Petty Officer Wren Brenda Green, of HMS Mercury, Portsmouth, and Cpl Tracy Wilkes, of RAF Marham, who both scored 199 out of 200.

RESULTS: Women's Inter-Services Rifle Trophy, WRAF, 199; WRNS, 198; Army, 197. (Our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes).

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THE TIMES TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13 1990

SWIMMING

Swedish gold can round off season

From Craig Lord
Gothenburg

A gold medal at the Swedish World Cup Open meeting here today will round off the most successful season of Madeleine Scarborough's career.

Scarborough, aged 25, a supply teacher, who is coached by Chris Nielsen at Portsmouth Northsea, was flying high in Bona at the weekend after her bronze medal success at the Commonwealth Games.

At Bona, Scarborough came within half a second of Christine Steviert, when the East German set a world best of 27.45 in the 50 metres butterfly.

The British butterfly champion will seek to go one place better in Sweden, and in the final 1990 World Cup meeting in Leicester next week, before taking a well-earned rest.

She said: "I've got to sort out my life. For a couple of months, I'm going to concentrate on my teaching job. Hopefully, I will also find a sponsor to help me prepare for the world championships in Perth next January."

Scarborough will be joined in Gothenburg by seven other members of the TSB English squad: Caroline Woodcock (Barnet), Lynda Rastner (Parsmouth), Caroline Pigott (Birmingham), Kirstyn Shortman (Bristol), Ian McKenzie (Barnet), Nick Pollock (Barnet), and Paul Pedersen (Barnet).

They will face the same world class line-up that competed in Bona, minus the East Germans. Anders Holmertz, of Sweden, will attempt to convert his record breaking short-course (25-metre pool) performances into long-course times, to provide his home crowd with a world record in the 200 metres or 400 metres freestyle. In Bona there were five world best times and six European bests.

England will be represented at this weekend's world cup meeting, in Desenzano del Garda, Italy, by six members of the intermediate squad: Richard Maden (Rushmore), Douglas Galtland (Beckenham), Tim Hart (Thurrock), Debbie Morgan (Derwentside), Jayne Dowling (Bobsan), and Lucy Finlay (Kelly College).

SHOOTING

WRAF hit back to take title

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YACHTING

The gap is closing between leading New Zealanders

By Barry Pickthall

Eight days into the fourth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race, 10 miles was all that divided the two New Zealand yachts, Fisher 4 and Paykel and Steinlager 2, as they continued to edge ahead of their 21 rivals early yesterday afternoon.

Rothmans, the third-placed British yacht, remained 46 miles behind the leader, and was being challenged by Charles Jourdan, Alain Cabiboy's French ultra-light boat. She passed Pierre Felhmann's Swiss yacht, Merit, overnight and was within eight miles of Lawrie Smith and his crew after taking 39 miles out of Rothmans' lead overnight.

Merit, which hit a whale last week, then suffered damage to her mainmast and spinnaker pole during a wild pitch on Saturday, dropped to fifth place after setting the second slowest speed of 11.7 knots between satellite sweeps yesterday. By contrast, Fisher 4 and Paykel and Steinlager and Charles Jourdan averaged more than 14.5 knots, against 13.1 by Rothmans.

There was a spread of 400 miles between the first and last of the 15 yachts, with Bob Salmon's Liverpool Enterprise bringing up the rear, 22 miles ahead of Dirk Nauts's sole Division 2 entry, Equity and Merit. Following them came the two British entries in the cruiser class, with Creighton's Nativity leading With Integrity, which has lost the use of all her sailing instruments, by 80 miles.

Paykel and Steinlager de Liberté continued to lead the five small yachts in Division 3, which were joined once more by Runcorn Sport, the Belgian yacht that returned to New Zealand last week after colliding with a whale. She left Wellington at 09.30 GMT yesterday and is now unlikely to reach the finish line in Punta del Este before the fleet sets sail on the fifth stage of the race to Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Tabary's yacht, although trailing Tracy Edwards's crew on Maiden in the overall standings, moved 76 miles ahead of the women's team on this leg, and appeared to be sailing faster in the lighter winds to sea.

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Leading positions

Compiled at 13.17 GMT yesterday with miles to Punta del Este.

MAIDEN: 1. Fisher 4 (NZ) 2. Steinlager 2 (NZ) 3. Rothmans (NZ) 4. Equity (NZ) 5. Merit (NZ) 6. Nativity (NZ) 7. With Integrity (NZ) 8. Creighton (NZ) 9. Runcorn Sport (Belgium) 10. Tabary (France) 11. Paykel (NZ) 12. Charles Jourdan (France) 13. Alain Cabiboy (France) 14. Pierre Felhmann (Switzerland) 15. Dirk Nauts (Netherlands) 16. Bob Salmon (Liverpool) 17. Merit (Switzerland) 18. Equity (Netherlands) 19. Nativity (Netherlands) 20. With Integrity (Netherlands) 21. Creighton (Netherlands) 22. Runcorn Sport (Netherlands) 23. Tabary (France) 24. Paykel (NZ) 25. Charles Jourdan (France) 26. Alain Cabiboy (France) 27. Pierre Felhmann (Switzerland) 28. Dirk Nauts (Netherlands) 29. Bob Salmon (Liverpool) 30. Merit (Switzerland) 31. Equity (Netherlands) 32. Nativity (Netherlands) 33. With Integrity (Netherlands) 34. Creighton (Netherlands) 35. Runcorn Sport (Netherlands) 36. Tabary (France) 37. Paykel (NZ) 38. Charles Jourdan (France) 39. Alain Cabiboy (France) 40. 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Boxing's rulers are left in a void

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Boxing was in turmoil yesterday after the decision of the World Boxing Council (WBC) and the World Boxing Association (WBA) to declare the world heavyweight title bout between Mike Tyson and James "Buster" Douglas a void contest.

Tyson was knocked out in the tenth round in Tokyo on Sunday, but the WBC and WBA ruled that as Douglas had been given a long count of 13 seconds by Octavio Meyran Sánchez, the referee, in the eighth round — confirmed by the videotape — both boxers had a case and there should be no champion until the two bodies had discussed the matter on February 20.

However, boxing experts condemned the decision and maintained that Douglas should be declared the champion, regardless of what action the WBC and WBA might take. Nor were the television

audience and boxing analysts in any doubt that Douglas's knockout was the more convincing. As Dana Rinehart, mayor of Douglas's home town of Columbus, Ohio, said: "The man won fair and square. He's won it in the eyes of the world."

The British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC), whose chairman, Sir David Hopkin, is the vice-president of the WBC, voiced its criticism yesterday. John Morris, the secretary of the board, said: "We have faxed a letter on behalf of the chairman, Sir David Hopkin, and the vice-chairman, Nipper Read, to the WBC and WBA expressing that they and the board are very concerned that there should be any suggestion that the referee's decision should be anything other than final. We asked them to consider the consequences and damage to the sport as a result of any move to change a referee's decision."

The rules of the BBBC and the European Boxing Union (EBU) state that the referee's decision is final. The EBU rule goes further by stating that it is "without appeal by the interested parties, in all cases".

Since boxing is a sport where all measurements are exact and boxers are having to accept controversial decisions all the time, the decision by the two bodies will be seen to have been taken with unbecomingly haste on the protest of Don King, who backs Tyson and promotes his bouts.

Bob Arum, a rival American promoter, said: "Last night should have been one of the greatest nights in the history of boxing. Everybody felt good about the sport. To even suggest to take away the title from the kid, who had prepared for the fight and beat the invincible champion, is an absurdity."

Alex Wallau, a respected

boxing analyst employed by ABC Television, was equally forthright. He said: "The controversy to me is the most absurd abuse of power from the WBA and WBC that I've seen, and I've seen a lot. I think they can and will deny Buster Douglas his victory and will order a rematch. Tyson will probably knock out Douglas in the rematch."

"Mistakes happen all the time. But the referee's count is official," Wallau added. "The round was over. It would have been one thing if it was two minutes into the round and the guy got time to recover. There's no doubt Buster Douglas could've gotten up any time after the count of four."

While the WBC investigates the "long count", the leading contenders, Evander Holyfield, George Foreman, Razor Ruddock, Michael Dokes and others, were asking: "Whom do I fight if I want to be champion?"

Before leaving Tokyo, Douglas said that as far as he was concerned he was the champion and would be defending against Holyfield, the No. 1 challenger. He would consider a rematch with Tyson only after meeting Holyfield.

Since Tyson's defeat had put in doubt his \$13 million defence against Holyfield on June 18 in Atlantic City, Holyfield's camp was sure about its next move. It could see a legal nightmare looming if the two world bodies insisted on going with King.

"As far as we can tell, we have no idea what will happen," Kathy Duva said for Main Events-Monitor, Holyfield's promoter. "There are so many possibilities, it boggles the mind."

"The WBA has signed agreements with Tyson and Douglas, binding the winner to fight Holyfield next," she added. "If they back down on that decision, we have a lawsuit. We have an agreement to fight for the world heavyweight championship. We purposely didn't put in anyone's [the WBC, WBA or IBF, or all three] champion. We don't want to fight this out in court. We're supposed to make the fighters rich, not the lawyers."



Fallen hero: Tyson is caught in sombre mood as he arrives back in New York yesterday

Rooney appeals to Tyson to work with him again

New York (Agencies) — Kevin Rooney, the former trainer of Mike Tyson, yesterday linked the heavyweight champion's knockout by James "Buster" Douglas to the boxer's association with the promoter, Don King, and his associates.

"He should leave King and get back to me," Rooney said. "Mike had no fire in his eyes, he didn't come to fight. You have to place the blame somewhere and they're the trainers [Jay Bright and Aaron Snowell], so they're the guys you blame."

Rooney was Tyson's trainer from 1981 until 1988 and was in his corner for the first 35 of his 38 professional fights. Tyson dismissed Rooney and his manager, Bill Cayton, after they had publicly criticized Tyson's lifestyle.

"Sure, Mike has to take most of the blame, but they didn't do their job," Rooney said. "If they were looking out for my fighter, he would have been in better condition — or the fight never would have gone on."

"Don King is trying to get

the WBA, WBC and anybody else to say it was a long count so he can get the title back," Rooney said. "Mike has been getting screwed left and right. He should leave King and get back to me."

"The problem with King and all them is they let him [Tyson] call his own shots. He went over there just three weeks before the fight, then he gets knocked down in training by Greg Page and he takes five days off. Five days off."

"These guys Bright and Snowell aren't trainers, they're gofers. Mike needed somebody who could look into his eyes and find out if he still had the fire to fight."

"At least he's proven now that he takes a good shot. Some people doubted he could do that. Douglas nailed him continually, with good punches, hard punches. Mike took them until he couldn't take it anymore and started looking for a place to go."

Meanwhile, Tyson, accompanied by Don King, returned to New York in defiant mood, although he admitted he had fought badly. "I've lost before," he said.

It's no big deal," said Tyson, whose last defeat was as an amateur in 1984 when he failed to get into the United States team for the Los Angeles Olympics.

Tyson added: "I've always come back from a loss. I feel great. I have a slight swelling in my eye and as soon as it goes down I'm ready to go back to training. I'll be prepared better next time."

Tyson said: "It was a bad decision. He [the referee] made a bad mistake."

Douglas, in Chicago yesterday on his way home to Columbus, Ohio, said that he won the fight fair and square. "I was never hurt," he said, referring to his knock-down in the eighth round. "I followed the count. I picked up the count immediately."

He said he almost knocked Tyson out in the ninth round, and the time he took getting to his feet in the eighth was simply a matter of "catching my balance. The public itself will recognise me as the heavyweight champion of the world. They recognize that the better man won..."

Welsh four passed fit

All four Welsh players in doubt because of injury for the rugby union international against England at Twickenham on Saturday have been declared fit to play (Owen Jenkins writes).

The left wing, Arthur Emyr (strained leg muscle), the loose-head prop, Mike Griffiths (ankle injury), the second row, Andrew Allen (shoulder), and the No. 8, Mark Jones (dead leg), passed fitness tests under the supervision of Tudor Jones, the Welsh Rugby Union physiotherapist, before last night's training session at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

Turkey in job offer to Piontek

Ankara (Reuters) — Turkey has made an offer to the Danish national coach, Sepp Piontek, to take over its national squad, a Turkish Football Federation official said yesterday.

"I can confirm that Piontek has been approached to take over as the technical director of the Turkish national team," the official said.

He said that Piontek, a former West German international, who has said he will not renew his contract when it expires in June, was contacted by telephone several days ago by the federation chief, Senes Erzik.

It is likely that Piontek, who guided Denmark to the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico, and two European championship finals, would meet Turkish football officials in West Germany later this week to discuss terms.

Mustafa Denizli, the former Turkey coach, who led the national team to third place in their World Cup qualifying group for Italy, is working with the Aachen, West Germany, club.

Piontek said later he planned to fly to Istanbul to sign a contract immediately after finalizing terms.

Macari and Hillier are found guilty of placing football bets

By Dennis Siggy

Brian Hillier, the chairman of Swindon Town, and Lou Macari, who left the Wittham club last summer to manage West Ham United, were yesterday found guilty of betting on their team to lose an FA Cup tie at Newcastle United in January 1988.

After a hearing at Lancaster Gate lasting more than 3½ hours, an FA commission suspended Hillier from football for six months from February 26, fined Macari £1,000 and Swindon £7,500.

Tom Finn, the secretary of West Ham, promptly issued a statement saying that Macari's position at Upton Park was unaffected and that he would be in charge for tomorrow's Littlewoods Cup semi-final against Oldham Athletic at Boundary Park.

The three-man commission, headed by Geoff Thompson, the chairman of the FA Disciplinary Committee, and including Barry Bright (Kent) and Noel White, a director of Liverpool, listened to evidence under FA rule 26a4 which forbids officials, players and managers to bet on any match other than an authorized or recognized pool.

The accusation related to a cup-tie at Newcastle to a cup-tie at Newcastle, then in the first division, were 13-8 odds-on favourites to win the tie and that the bet of £6,500 at a racetrack on the day of the match produced a winning cheque for £4,000. At the time Lionel Smart, a Swindon director and vice-president of

the FA, was chairman of the FA Challenge Cup committee.

Dave King, the former secretary of Swindon, said as he left the hearing: "This is a very sad day for Swindon Town football club. As far as I am concerned the verdict vindicates an awful lot of good people who work at Swindon Town."

Five directors of Swindon attended the hearing, Gary Herbert, the vice-chairman, David Alderton, Nick Arkell, Cecil Green and Smart, plus Vince Farrar, the chief accountant, and George Sims, the former chief steward.

Macari was accompanied by Charles King, the West Ham solicitor, and Finn.

It was made clear afterwards that Hillier's suspension will not preclude him from attending matches, which could include a Wembley final if Swindon get through two more stages of the Zenith Data Systems competitions.

Graham Kelly, the chief executive of the FA, announcing the verdicts, said the commission regarded the offences as serious and said the costs would be shared three

ways. He added: "We have not seen any evidence of widespread abuse of that rule."

Finn said: "It is apparent from the punishment imposed on Mr Macari that his minimal involvement in respect of these matters was accepted by the FA. For the past six weeks Mr Macari and his family have been subjected to intense media pressure at times amounting to harassment."

"Now that the matter is behind him we trust and hope he will be allowed to return to a normal life and concentrate on his duties as manager of West Ham, commencing appropriately with the Littlewoods Cup semi-final."

There is still a possibility of a Football League hearing involving Swindon. The club has been asked to answer questions in relation to alleged unauthorized payments to players, contrary to rules.

Run up the aisle

Adelaide (APF) — Yobes Ondieki, the Kenyan long-distance runner, and Lisa Martin, the recently-crowned Commonwealth marathon champion, married here at the weekend.

Wakefield Trinity get a plum tie in cup draw

From Keith Macklin

Luck was in for Yorkshire, but out for Cumbria, when the draw for the quarter-finals of the Silk Cut rugby league challenge cup was made at Leeds yesterday.

The two remaining Yorkshire sides, Bradford Northern and Wakefield Trinity, received home draws, but Whitehaven, the outsiders of the competition, ran out of good fortune and have to visit last season's beaten finalists, St Helens.

Wakefield Trinity drew the plum of the round with a tie at Belle Vue against the holders and favourites, Wigan. Bradford Northern, who have struggled to find their best form, are at home to another side still unable to find their full potential, Warrington.

The two favourites, the champions Wigan, after several years of continuous away ties, have been handed another home game, this time against the second division side and promotion challengers, Oldham.

Shaun Edwards, the Wigan and Great Britain stand-off

half, was suitably cautious about his team's prospects at Wakefield. "We went there to play a championship game early last season, and were well beaten. They ran around us in the first half, and though we played better in the second half, we couldn't catch them. We will certainly not be over-confident about this one."

Whitehaven had hoped for a third consecutive home draw after dismissing first division Leigh and second division Keighley at their own compact Recreation Ground.

They will not relish a visit to St Helens, where last season's finalists, who were not merely beaten, but humiliated, by Wigan at Wembley, are discovering a new lease of life under their New Zealanders, the newly arrived coach, Mike McClellan, and loose forward, Shane Cooper.

The matches will be played on the weekend of February 24 and 25.

END COLUMN

Referees must always be right



David Miller

There is an affectionate story, told against himself by Denis Howell, of the afternoon he was refereeing a match at Chelsea. Jimmy Greaves, that adolescent magician, evidently disagreed with several decisions by Howell, and said so.

"Look here, young man," Howell said, thinking he would paternally put the youngster in his place, "who do you think is refereeing this match?"

"I don't know," young Jim replied chirpily, "but it certainly isn't either of us."

Mike Tyson and Don King have their doubts, too, about Octavio Meyran Sánchez's performance in Tokyo but unless sporting competitors play to the whistle, so to speak, there is no point in games of any kind. Retrospective judgement on the result of an event is an absurdity, if only because of the infinity of possibilities it raises for alteration.

Imagine watching Liverpool defeat Everton in last season's FA Cup final, going home, and waking up on Sunday to discover that Lancaster Gate had reversed the result. Did FIFA contemplate that when Hurst was awarded the controversial goal in the 1966 World Cup final or when Maradona handled against England in 1986? Of course not.

Technology does sport no service

Sport is not better off for the revealing techniques of television, but worse off. Technology removes, albeit with delay, the arguments that are the very essence of sport. Photo-finish cameras remove argument in sprint races. Excellent, you may say. Yet the fun begins when there is scope, which occasionally happens, to disagree with the photograph.

Sport is, or should be, a lesson in life. Tyson and his manager/agent, King, have just learnt an enormous lesson. That sometimes somebody makes an error, never mind that it is inadvertent, which alters the course of your life.

When I was 18, I won an inter-school 100 yards. The opposition claimed I had the benefit of a false start. When subsequently I won the 200 yards by at least a foot, our master in charge diplomatically declared it a dead heat. That decision did me more good than any photo-finish camera would have done: certainly as a preparation for Fleet Street.

Rematch the only proper decision

It would be grotesque if the World Boxing Council and World Boxing Association were to do anything other than to order a rematch between Tyson and Douglas, whether or not Tyson is contracted to fight Holyfield, who should receive compensation.

Whatever the governing bodies do the record books will show that Douglas was heavyweight champion, even if officially it was for only a week.

The argument over technology remains: should it be accepted, where available, as intervening evidence for decision making. In horse racing, stewards can change the result of a race when inquiry discloses an irregularity during it, but that is no different from disqualification in an Olympic race.

My opinion would be, on balance, that it is a disadvantage to try to employ technology in a moving sport where instant decision is necessary from moment to moment. American football uses television replays, but American football is little more than a sequence of set pieces.

If we want to avoid long counts in boxing, then perhaps there should be a buzzer, as in *Mastermind*. It is less complicated, however, to live with the human error to which Meyran admits.

What television demonstrates in association football, and even in cricket, is that those whom we entrust to make the decisions are right far more often than they are wrong. When they are deliberately wrong, as has been seen in World Cup or European Cup football from time to time, then we are dependent on the integrity of the governing bodies to do something about it. That is another matter.

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Treacy's second

Tokyo (Reuters) — John Treacy, aged 32, who won a silver medal for Ireland in the Seoul Olympic Games, took second place in two hours 11 minutes 23 seconds in the Tokyo international marathon yesterday.

The race was won by Takeyuki Nakayama, of Japan, in 2hr 10min, 57sec. Denismo, of Ethiopia, the world record holder, came in third at 2:11:32.

Bears details

Manchester Spartans, the British American Football champions, will play Moscow Bears, the first Russian side to tour this country, in an exhibition match on April 1.

Open indoors

Linford Christie, the Commonwealth 100 metres champion, will compete this weekend in the Omron Games at Cosford, the first big fixture of the 1990 domestic indoor athletics season.



Bryant winning again

Finalist again

David Bryant, a nine times winner, has qualified for the final stages of the English indoor singles bowls championship at Milton Mowbray next month. In the last of his regional qualifying matches at Nailsea yesterday he beat Mike Prosser, 21-16.

Reardon rush

Ray Reardon, aged 58, took just over two hours to defeat Mark Bennett 6-2 in the first round of the Welsh professional snooker championship at Newport yesterday.

Athletics cash

Topline, the Swansea-based group of companies, has agreed a £100,000 sponsorship deal over four years for Welsh athletics.

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